

Amnesty assails Israel's 'administrative detention'

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International has accused Israel of violating basic human rights by detaining without trial more than 5,000 Palestinians since the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza began in December 1987.

The London-based human rights organisation said Thursday that at least 1,100 of the Palestinians remained in "administrative detention," most in harsh conditions in the Ketzioz prisoner camp in the southern desert.

"Amnesty International believes that the existing practice... falls short of international human rights standard," it said in a report on detention without trial during the uprising.

Calling on Israel to review use of detention, Amnesty said: "Administrative detention can and has been abused to detain prisoners of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression

and association." Most detainees, Amnesty said, are held for six months and must wait weeks or months before they can appeal to a military judge.

"Even then, in almost every single case, detainees and their lawyers are not given sufficient specific information to enable them to exercise effectively their right to challenge the detention order," the report said.

"Administrative detention" in Israel and the occupied territories is based on emergency regulations enacted in 1945 by British mandatory authorities in Palestine.

Detainees in the uprising have included journalists, trade union-

ists, academics, doctors, lawyers, teachers and human rights workers.

"The authorities have maintained that some were involved in demonstrations, throwing stones or other missiles, or setting up roadblocks," Amnesty said.

Others were alleged to be Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists spearheading the uprising.

"Those who are held on account of their non-violent political opinions or activities should be released immediately and unconditionally," the report said.

Amnesty urged that others should be allowed to lodge prompt appeals.

Israeli authorities stepped up the use of "administrative detention" in March 1988, suspending prompt, automatic judicial review of detention orders and allowing any officer above the rank of colonel to issue them, the report said.



Foreign experts teach Afghans to probe for landmines in a camp in Pakistan

Kabul says refugees returning

KABUL (AP) — The government said Tuesday that in the last two weeks at least 4,000 refugee families had left camps in Pakistan and Iran and returned to their war-devastated homeland.

Refugees were returning mainly to the western province of Herat and the southern provinces of Kandahar, Nangahar and Logar, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani.

Pakistan-based guerrillas were using force in some cases to prevent more refugees from returning, Amani said.

"Without the refugees, the guerrillas have nothing," he said. The government's estimate of returning refugees could not be immediately verified independently.

An estimated one-third of Afghanistan's 15 million population fled the 11-year-old insurgency against the Soviet-backed communist government headed by President Najibullah.

Refugees have started to trickle back since Soviet troops left Afghanistan Feb. 15, ending a nine-year intervention.

Najibullah Monday appealed for refugees to return home and

help rebuild the country.

"Now the peace march is starting. We open our doors to you. We will share our bread with you," he said in a speech broadcast on government-run television and radio.

In 1987, Najibullah announced a "national reconciliation" and offered enticements to the five million refugees, including returning property, granting them special loans and a six-month exemption from military service. By official count, 200,000 refugees have responded to the offer.

There are deterrents to the return of families to their villages, most which are under guerrilla control. Refugees fear the continuing war and land mines, millions of which were placed throughout the country.

In a related development, Amani said government forces recaptured the garrison of Samarkhel in Jalalabad, which has been under guerrilla attack since March. The garrison fell to the rebels early in the siege.

Amani also said the government forces pushed the guerrillas 25 kilometres from the city. The government claims could

not be independently verified but air activity and missiles launched from the capital towards Jalalabad indicated fighting continued.

A U.N. delegation met Afghan rebels in Tehran Tuesday to discuss elections for a broad-based government in their country, Tehran Radio reported.

It quoted Seven Bnon, adviser to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, as saying both Moscow and the Kabul government had accepted there should be political changes.

"The secretary general is committed to help the Afghan people. He wants peace to be established and a broad-based government to take over in that country after elections," the radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Bnon as saying.

Alijan Zahedi, spokesman for a coalition of eight Mujahideen groups in Tehran, told Bnon that U.S. and Soviet interference hampered free elections in Afghanistan.

Bnon, who arrived in Tehran Friday with Perez de Cuellar's assistant Dominico Picco, has also held two rounds of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shevardnadze postpones visits

MOSCOW (AP) — Changes in the schedule of the Congress of People's Deputies have forced Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to postpone his official visits to Greece and Cyprus, a government spokesman said Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the visits would take place at a later unspecified date. Shevardnadze flew to Paris Tuesday for the opening session of an East-West conference on human rights and was to return Wednesday, Gerasimov said. The decision to cancel the visits was reached by mutual agreement, he said. It became necessary "because the Congress of People's Deputies will work longer than earlier scheduled," he said.

U.N. seeks more money for Sudan relief

NAIROBI (AP) — The director of a United Nations relief effort to avert starvation in the southern Sudan said Tuesday he would seek \$50 million more for the operation. James Grant, head of Operation Lifeline Sudan, said the \$130 million originally donated by U.N.-member nations and private organisations will not see the project to completion. Speaking at a news conference in Nairobi, Grant said he would appeal for more money at a donors' conference in New York June 13 to carry the operation through the end of the year. He said two-thirds of the additional \$50 million would be earmarked for the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose Operation Lifeline funding expires June 30.

MPs call for foreign fleet pullout

NICOSIA (AP) — A conference of Mediterranean parliamentarians ended here Tuesday with a call for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from their sea. A communiqué at the end of the two-day meeting said this would be "a first step in the direction of eliminating tension and securing a favourable environment for the transformation of the region into a zone of peace and security." It added that the security of the region was a matter for the littoral states and "can only be achieved through understanding and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, including cooperation in the fields of culture, economics, commerce, and transportation." The conference was attended by mainly leftist parliamentarians from only 10 of the 18 littoral states, including the Palestine National Council. Those present came from the parliaments of Cyprus, France, Greece, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria and Yugoslavia.

Mandate of UNDOF renewed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council Tuesday routinely extended the mandate of the 15-year-old U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Middle East for six months. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a report to the 15-member council that UNDOF successfully has been supervising the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces since May 1974. He said the Israeli-Syria sector has been quiet for the past six months, but said the continued presence of UNDOF was essential.

Prince Sultan holds talks in London

LONDON (AP) — Defence Secretary George Younger and his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Sultan, held talks in London Tuesday on "matters of mutual interest," the Ministry of Defence said. The ministry did not release any details of the 45-minute meeting.

Third round of U.S.-PLO talks soon

TUNIS (R) — The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will soon resume official talks in Tunis, Palestinian news agency Wafa said Wednesday.

The agency said the decision to hold a third round of talks was taken Tuesday when PLO representative Hakan Baksou and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau had an informal meeting.

Washington requested the meeting following last week's emergency Arab summit in Casablanca and Secretary of State James Baker's statement calling on Palestinians and Israelis to make moves towards peace.

Wafa said Tuesday's meeting was also devoted to the PLO's position on the elections proposed in the occupied territories by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The PLO's Peace Strategy to

achieve an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel was given unanimous Arab support at the Casablanca summit which ended Friday.

Tuesday's talks in Tunis came after Baker set out specific steps for the Palestinians and Israel to advance the Middle East peace process.

The meeting in Tunis was called at the Americans' request, said a State Department official in Washington.

He declined to provide any details of the session, which he described as informal, saying only that it was meant to foster the U.S.-PLO dialogue on Middle East peace.

The Bush administration has begun a new initiative to bring Israelis and Palestinians into direct negotiations centred mostly on the Israeli proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker, in his first major

speech on the Middle East, last week urged both sides to take specific steps to help build an atmosphere of trust between enemies and said it was "high time for serious political dialogue" between Israelis and Palestinians.

He called on Israel to fore-wear annexation of the occupied territories, stop settlement activity, allow schools to reopen and "reach out to Palestinians as neighbours who deserve political rights."

He said Palestinians should "speak with one voice for peace" and translate the 18-month-old uprising from a "dialogue of violence... into a dialogue of politics and diplomacy."

Baker also urged Palestinians to accept the idea of elections in the occupied territories and to work with the United States and Israel to mould it into an acceptable form.

Palestinian video documents uprising

By Marjorie Olster Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Alongside the usual action thrillers and B-movies, video shops in Arab Jerusalem are discreetly offering new fare — intifada videos.

These are films of the Palestinian uprising rarely seen on Israel Television.

In towns, villages and refugee camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians with hand-held video cameras are filming clashes and marches where the army bars network television crews.

Palestinians have come to realise the impact of pictures which have drawn international sympathy for their 17-month rebellion against Israeli occupation.

Amateur cameramen are increasingly supplying videotapes of protests and secret paramilitary marches of the Palestinian "Popular Army" to foreign news networks and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders abroad, activists said.

Videos were smuggled to PLO headquarters to prove the para-military units existed and to back requests for money.

"There is a growing awareness of the power and importance of pictures," said Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttub. "But there are not enough people who understand that power."

Intifada video is a patriotic service for some, a business for others.

Ahmed, a cameraman in the West Bank, said taking pictures of demonstrations was his contribution to the intifada.

"I don't throw stones, I feel like I am doing something for the people," Ahmad said, he added Palestinians tended to respect only those who were injured or imprisoned in the uprising.

Hisham, who works regularly for foreign television, said he shoots for professional experience and for the money.

Both men asked that their real identities be concealed.

U.S. television networks, facing increasing restrictions in covering remote areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, first put small video cameras in the hands of local Palestinians in November 1988.

Israel had barred the media from the occupied territories during a meeting in Algiers of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which declared an independent state.

"The army was clamping down and closing off areas," said one network bureau chief. "Crews couldn't be everywhere. So it made sense to give cameras to locals. It's the only way to get pictures when the authorities close an area."

Israel television, broadcasting in Hebrew and Arabic, rarely shows film of violent clashes between troops and Palestinians.

Its coverage of the uprising has mainly consisted of long shots of shuttered shops and empty streets during curfews, with soldiers filmed on patrol, often from behind.

Aware of the power of images in sustaining the revolt, Palestinians have established a documentation centre to collect videotapes and newspaper articles about the uprising.

The centre has produced two documentaries with home video cameras about Arab life under Israeli rule since the uprising began in December 1987.

One entitled "Education Under Occupation" examines Israel's closure of Palestinian schools and traces the development of underground popular education in the occupied territories.

In one scene, three-year-old children in an underground West Bank nursery school play

a game called "intifada." They make mock roadblocks with building blocks, "protest" stone "soldiers" wearing red headbands who club them over the head.

The centre's founder, Walid Atala, said he hoped the centre would become an embryonic Palestinian television studio producing news and documentaries for the Arab World.

To satisfy the hunger for news of the revolt, enterprising Palestinian video-owners have made montages of intifada pictures from Jordanian, Syrian and foreign television broadcasts.

Films circulating clandestinely in the West Bank are far more graphic than those on Israeli Television, showing arrests, beatings, shootings and confrontations.

Friends and neighbours watch the videos together for their nightly entertainment. Despite the poor quality, some tapes end up on video shop shelves for rent at about \$1 a day.

Amateur cameramen have produced some strong images of recent unrest, although network managers say much of their video is sub-standard and unusable.

Palestinian cameramen are

often too intimidated by troops to film close-up.

"On the first day of 'Bid' Al-Fitr' in April the army closed the entire Gaza Strip to the media. In clashes that day, troops shot dead three Palestinians and wounded nearly 150.

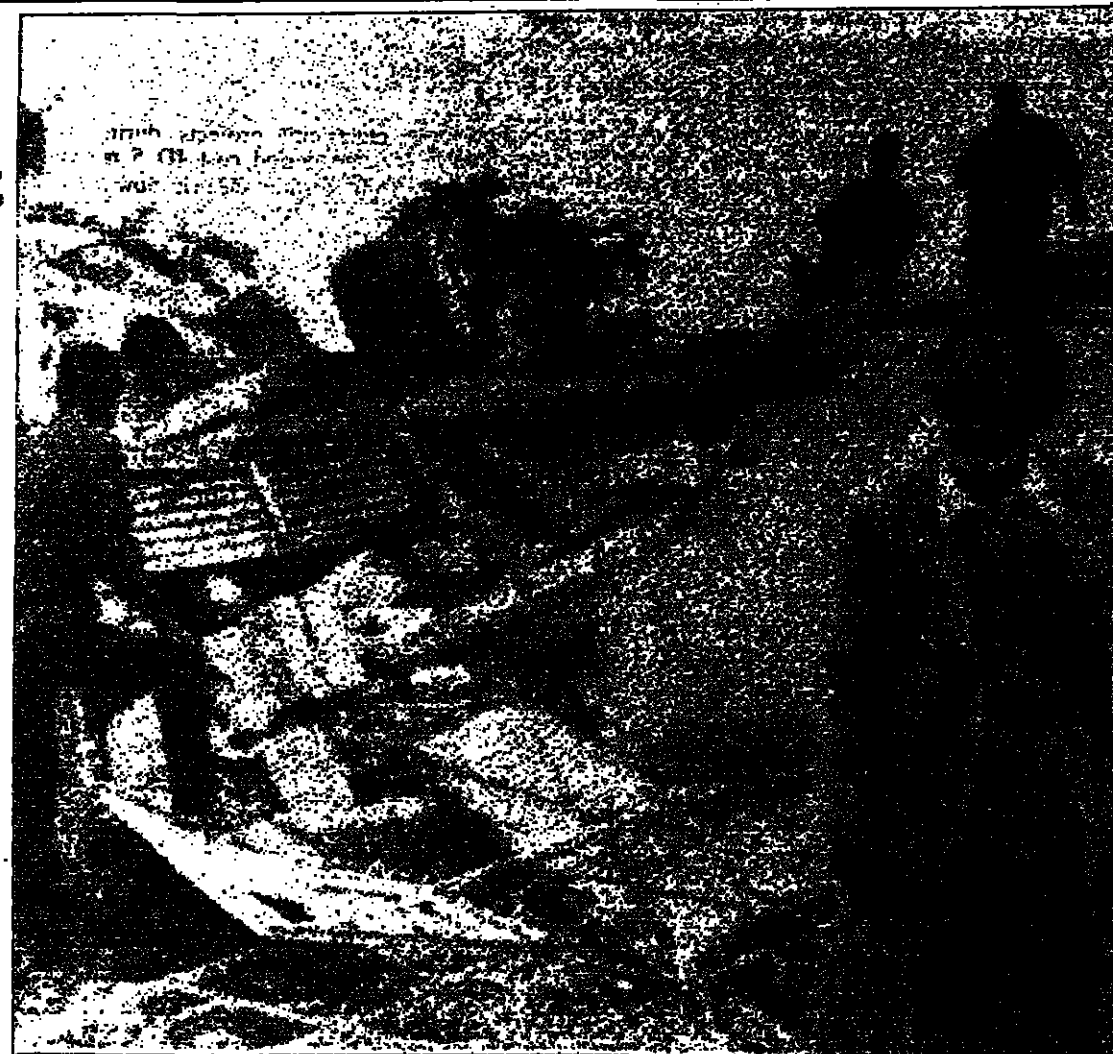
Despite the closure, several foreign networks received pictures from a Palestinian cameraman hidden in a house, who filmed activists stoning troops in a Gaza graveyard.

The networks have given cameras and basic training to Palestinians with good contacts, who had the advantage of speaking Arabic and knowing local residents suspicious of Israeli cameramen working for the foreign media.

Palestinians have grown wary of the foreign press after Israeli forces posed as journalists to enter villages and conduct arrests.

"The Shin Bet (secret police) has been successful in sowing distrust of anybody with a camera," the bureau chief said.

With some Israeli officials floating the idea of a prolonged closure of the occupied territories to crush the uprising, amateur Arab cameramen could become the main source of pictures for the foreign media.



Palestinians inspect the wreckage of a Palestinian car blown up by the Israeli occupation authorities as collective punishment for involvement in the uprising by one of the family members

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Local programme
16:00 News for the Deaf
16:10 Local programme
16:20 "Alph"
16:30 Health programme
16:40 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
17:00 Local series
17:10 Programme review
17:20 Arabic play
17:30 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
18:30 La Chance Aus Chansons
19:00 News in French
19:10 Tante
19:20 News in Hebrew
19:30 News in Arabic
19:40 Beauty and the Beast
19:50 News in English
20:00 Feature film: "Trois hommes a tuteur"

PRAYER TIMES

05:53 Fajr
06:26 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:40 Maghreb
21:13 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assioma International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight rise in temperature will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Smeirat 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663522
Dr. Jamil Al Zair 794149
Dr. Ahmad Al Natour 653934
Firas pharmacy 778336
Ferdows pharmacy 661912
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Smeisani pharmacy 637660

IBRID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—) 985238
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shahin 995710
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khalidi Maternity J. Amn 64281/6
Alkhalidi Maternity J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/737
Al-Abili, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajreen 7778015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zargi Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zargi National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:25 Dhabran (RJ)
10:10 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Athens (RJ)
10:20 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Kuwait (RJ)
12:15 Calcutta (RJ)
17:15 London (RJ)
17:30 Laraca (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:15 Athens (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
20:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Dubai (TU)
10:10 Sanaa (LH)
14:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Baghdad (IA)
16:00 Bucharest (RO)
17:25 Riyadh (SV)
19:00 Amsterdam, Athens (LH)
19:05 Cairo (MS)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:10 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
01:05 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Anaba (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:20 Tripoli (RJ)
12:45 Vienna, New York (RJ)
13:00 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
13:00 Rome, Paris (RJ)
13:30 Laraca (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:10 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Baghdad (RJ)
21:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:15 Tunis (TU)
11:10 Frankfurt (LH)
15:30 Bahrain (GF)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
17:15 Bucharest (RO)
18:40 Riyadh (SV)
19:50 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lila per kg.

Apple 700 / 800
Apricot 850 / 750
Banana 370 / 320
Banana (Mukammal) 320 / 270
Beans 400 / 350
Broad beans 180 / 140
Cabbage 60 / 40
Carrots 120 / 80
Cauliflower 220 / 180
Cherry (red) 1100 / 800
Cherry (green) 720 / 600
Corn 140 / 100
Cucumbers 170 / 120
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 110 / 70
Garlic 400 / 300
Grapes 820 / 700
Lemon 450 / 350
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 80
Marrow (large) 80 / 40
Marrow (small) 140 / 100
Okra 850 / 750
Orange 720 / 280
Onion (dry) 60 / 40
Pepper (hot) 280 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 280
Potato 260 / 200
Tomatoes 100 / 70
Watermelon 180 / 90

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE



Anti-smoking campaigners Wednesday gather at the Professional Association Complex to observe non-smoking day (Petra photo)

Jordan observes non-smoking day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with countries around the world Wednesday observed a non-smoking day as called for by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the national committee for combating smoking organised a one-day event at the Professional Association complex including lectures, discussions on eliminating the habit of smoking and economic and social effects of smoking on the society as a whole, specially on pregnant women and diseases resulting from the habit.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas addressed the meeting, outlining the ministry's primary health care programmes. The ministry will shortly introduce a medical specialisation for doctors in primary health care for which the candidate should obtain a three-year

training course and pass a general examination to be set by the Jordan Medical Board, Malhas noted.

The minister also gave details about plans to develop health centres in the Kingdom by introducing sections to care for non-communicable diseases. The ministry is also working on a national health insurance scheme, enabling all citizens to get medical treatment and health care, Malhas noted.

The minister also dwelt in his speech on the question of medicine in Jordan and its import-export operations, availability in the markets and the role of the ministry in fixing prices. Malhas Tuesday evening made a television address to the public urging all citizens particularly women to give up the habit of smoking. During a press conference held on the eve of the event

the director of primary health care department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Suleiman Qubain said that smoking caused 30 per cent of all cancer cases, up to 90 per cent of all lung cancer cases, 40 per cent of heart diseases and 50 per cent of cardiac diseases in Jordan, according to the ministry's surveys.

The Health Ministry's anti-smoking campaign includes among other things, distribution of pamphlets, posters and booklets, broadcasting radio and television programmes and printing warnings in the press about the dangers of smoking.

The Health Ministry in March banned smoking in public places in implementation of a 1977 law on public health, and said that violators will be liable to strict punishment as stated under that law. No violations were reported so far.

ICARDA names Amman regional centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Amman-based office operated by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is to become a regional centre providing services to countries in the western Asian region in addition to Jordan, according to an announcement by the Council of Ministers here Wednesday. The announcement said that the Jordanian government agreed to arrangements made in this respect with the ICARDA office.

ICARDA was established in 1977 to undertake research and training relevant to the needs of developing countries and specifically for the agricultural systems of west Asia and North Africa.

Its general objective is to help increase agricultural productivity and food supplies, thus improving economic and social living standards.

The Cabinet, in its weekly session, also approved of recommendations put forth by the Civil

Service Commission on criteria to be adopted for the appointing civil servants in public offices during 1989. The recommendations call for a competition to determine the fitness of the candidate for the job.

The Cabinet also approved of a regulation, allowing the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) to take part in the process of transporting pilgrims to Mecca and Medina this year. It said that the PTC can assign up to 75 buses for this task and will be operating alongside vehicles owned by other private companies and in coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which organises the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims.

The Cabinet approved of the re-formation of the Armenian Orthodox board in Jordan. The board will be chaired by Bishop Vahan Topalian, the Cabinet said.



Minister of Planning Zaid Fariz (centre) and American Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth (second from left) Wednesday sign two agreements at the Ministry of Planning by which USAID grants Jordan \$4.9 million for health and private sector projects (Petra photo).

U.S. grants Jordan \$4.9 million for health, private sector projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Wednesday added \$2.4 million to an initial \$5.5 million grant to assist service-oriented businesses in the private sector in Jordan. Dr. Ziad Fariz, minister of planning; Roscoe S. Suddarth, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan; and Dr. Richard Johnson, acting director of USAID signed the agreement.

Private Services Development (PSD) is working to strengthen services sector businesses and professionals in four targeted areas: computer, accounting and auditing, marketing and advertising, and industrial management and engineering services. The purpose of the project is to expand and improve service quality and delivery so that Jordanian services can compete favourably in regional and international markets as well as provide improved service delivery within the Kingdom.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Issam Meri has recently been appointed executive director for PSD. Dr. Meri has worked as a professor of accounting, statistics, and finance in the United States, and as a consultant to Saudi Arabia in the development of the accounting profession.

Both sides signed another agreement Wednesday under which USAID is adding \$2.5 mil-

lion to a \$5 million Ministry of Health public health information project begun in 1988. The project will raise the awareness with the medical community and the general public that lengthening the interval between births to a minimum of 24 months will save lives.

The relationship between birth intervals and maternal and child health in Jordan is one of the most dramatic in the world. More than 45 per cent of all births in Jordan occur less than 24 months after an earlier birth. Infant mortality for Jordanian children who are products of such births is an exceedingly high 92 to 128 per 1,000 births. Infant mortality among these children is two to three times as high as children born between 24 and 36 months intervals (38 per 1,000) and three to four times the rate for those born at 36 to 60 months intervals (29 per 1,000).

A team of prominent interna-

tional scientists recently examined the infant mortality rate in eleven countries, including Jordan. Their research concluded that increasing the birth interval in Jordan to at least 24 months would result in a 40 per cent reduction in infant deaths and a 29 per cent reduction in maternal mortality. These estimates are consistent with other international data which show that women bearing children and children born at intervals of 24 months or less are exposed to twice the risk of mortality. It is clear that short birth intervals are lowering the level of maternal/child health in Jordan.

The goal of the project funded by USAID today, is to improve maternal and child health and to reduce both infant and maternal mortality by the increased practice of birth spacing. This will be accomplished through a programme which will make both prospective parents and health care providers more knowledgeable about the risks of short birth intervals and about the birth spacing products that are licensed and available in Jordan. The project will utilise expertise from Jordan's private sector to make birth spacing information, technology, and products more widely available through both public health clinics and private sector outlets in Jordan.

Council of Amman region's development meets

21 industries born in '89

AMMAN (Petra) — The first four months of 1989 witnessed the birth of 21 new industries within the Amman region with an overall capital of JD 6.25 million, thus raising the total number of industries in this region to 159, according to the director of the department of industry at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The industrial sector in the Amman region contributes nearly 22 per cent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) and provides employment to nearly one quarter of the country's workforce, according to the official who spoke at a meeting called by the Amman development council to review achievements within the present 1986-1990 five-year national development plan. According to the department

director, the government's recent measures to encourage industry, has given incentive to investors who displayed greater interest in launching industrial ventures.

The director pointed to some difficulties that face the industry, citing marketing and the rising cost of input requirements.

Mr. Ali Dajani, an advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry, told the meeting that Jordan's industrial sector contributed JD 270 million to the gross national product (GNP) which amounts to JD 1,440 million.

The council heard a report by the director of education in the Amman region who said that school buildings for which JD 14 million had been allocated, cost JD 17.5 million to carry out due to the high cost of appropriated

land for setting up buildings. School buildings are needed to do away with the existing two-shift schools in rented buildings, he said.

The health director in Amman governorate said that 14 health projects were carried out in the Amman region in the first quarter of 1989, executed at the cost of JD 4 million. He said that the electricity projects during the same period cost JD 5 million, and further electric power projects are underway.

The council meeting was also addressed by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin who said that the country was facing difficulties due to the shortage of hard currency but the development process, he said will continue within the available means.

Concorde trip — a boost for Jordan

By Rania Atallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has just begun to reap the fruit of its efforts over the past several years in promoting its tourism industry. The third flight of a Concorde jetliner into Jordan, carrying 100 up-market tourists on a four-day visit to the Kingdom, proved to be one of British Airways' "best" luxury flights around the world, according to Yan Knott, representative of Goodwood Travel, the British agency which arranged the trip.

"They (the tourists) did not know what to expect before they came... they were overwhelmed by what they saw," Knott told a press conference at Queen Alia International Airport marking the end of the Concorde trip to the Kingdom.

"This trip turned out to be one of the best flights according to client reactions at the end of the tour," Knott said. "No place beats this place."

While some may say this sounds too good to be true, Ministry of Tourism Director General Nasri Atallah believes the key word to explain it is "promotion". "We are now reaping the fruit of our work over the past years," Atallah said at the press conference. "The reason is promotion."

The ministry has been operating with Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian, in promoting tourism around the world under an agreement

whereby RJ offices were designated as official representatives of the ministry abroad.

Despite the limitations imposed by its rather small JD 120,000 promotion budget for 1989, the ministry's expectations are that the country will still witness an additional influx of tourists in the coming 12 months, Atallah said.

Already, he says, there has been a 300 per cent increase in Italian tourists visiting Jordan in the first half of 1989 compared with the same period in 1988. Austrian tourists, increased by 150 per cent, and European tourists in general by 70 per cent. A total of 120,000 tourists from Europe visited Jordan last year.

Once-a-week chartered flights from Helsinki, Finland, to Aqaba started in 1987 and have now gone up to four flights a week. The next step, according to Atallah, is to have direct charter flights between Zurich and Aqaba starting in September this year.

This week's Concorde trip was the third since 1987. The Concorde made its first trip to Jordan on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday that year, and came back with an additional 100 up-market tourists in September of 1988; and the plan is, according to Atallah and Knott, to continue such trips in the future.

According to Munir Nassar, director of International Traders, the local travel agency that arranged the Concorde trip, each one of the 100 Concorde travellers would have spent in Jordan an average of £200 to 250 a day in terms of food, drinks and shopping.

The four-day trip, which took the tourists to Aqaba, Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea, included a steam-train ride from Daba'a to Amman arranged by the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Jordan's history conference opens

LYON (J.T.) — A five-day international conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan was opened here Wednesday with the participation of delegates from 18 countries.

The conference was addressed by Princess Wijdan Ali who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to attend the conference which was set up in cooperation with the University of Lyon and the French Foreign Ministry.

Princess Wijdan reviewed in her speech Jordan's history and said that the country now abounds with treasures of archaeology and antiquities left behind from ancient cultures and civilisations.

Orientalists and historians will also discuss the country's archaeological treasures and antiquities through 68 major research works and 36 working papers dealing with the excavation work in the Kingdom, ancient sites and artefacts unearthed over the past years.

The Department of Antiquities, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University together are presenting 14 research works to the conference which will review historical facts

from the Stone Age, the Iron Age and the Islamic era.

In addition three exhibitions featuring mosaics and artefacts will be opened during the conference depicting artefacts found at Tal Abu Hamed ancient site dating back to the early Bronze Age and until the 20th century.

The first conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan was held in England, the second in Amman and the third in West Germany.



Princess Wijdan Ali



Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin (second from right) Wednesday chairs a meeting of the Amman region's development at Amman's Chamber of Industry (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutillod" at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein's rule, at the Mafrag Youth Centre.
- A photography exhibition by Haitham Juweinat entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the Salt Municipality Library.
- An exhibition of cartoons entitled "40 Years Federal Republic of Germany" at the Goethe Institute.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- A lecture on art by Mazen 'Asfour at Al Wasiti Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- A feature film entitled "Stage Door" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DIALOGUE: Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat has said that the ministry strives by all means to encourage constructive dialogue and open channels of contacts to solve the problems of the youth. Addressing a youth cultural festival held Wednesday in Sahab on Jordan's Independence Day, Khleifat reviewed the achievements His Majesty King Hussein to attain Aab solidarity and noted the ministry's role in educating youths. He added that the ministry would present its services to the youths in Jordan and abroad (Petra).

CROSS-COUNTRY RACE: A total of 72 students from Karak Wednesday participated in a cross-country race on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day. Maan Governorate will celebrate Tuesday this anniversary by holding festivals involving speeches, poems, and artistic activities (Petra).

COURSES CONCLUDED: A four-day training course on advanced computers and their applications, organised by Jordan University of Science and Technology, concluded Tuesday. The course included lectures and practical lessons on advanced computer, in addition to slide and film shows about the various applications of computer systems. At Yarmouk University another training course on the use of computers, held by the continuous learning and community service department in cooperation with the Jordan Engineers Association branch in Irbid, concluded also Tuesday and participants were awarded certificates by the department director Mohammad Khawaldeh (Petra).

ENTERTAINMENT: 600 guests were entertained at Jordan Inter-Continental by the local band Survivors, which included a large number of secretaries from the private and public sectors. Mr. Majeed Khalil, general manager, welcomed the guests in a speech addressed to all the invitees praising the role of secretaries. The celebrations were also attended by members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and a number of company directors and press (J.T.)

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Let's debate

THE QUESTION being debated nowadays in the press and among officials at the Ministry of Education and by school teachers over a five-day week for schools in Jordan is indeed worth the attention of the general public.

It is difficult to find a family in Jordan which would not be affected by a decision on this matter; and since questions of national interest like cutting on expenditure and consumption are involved, a careful consideration must precede any final decision.

The Ministry of Education has put forth the issue for public debate, and one would naturally expect to see some reaction, largely in the press and through debates on radio and television. Favourable comments appearing in the media have so far pointed to the advantages of adopting a new five-day school system, noting among other things cuts on water and electricity spending at hundreds of schools by tens of thousands of students, saving petrol currently spent on commuting students and teachers from and to schools and allowing an extra day off for both teachers and students to conduct personal business at government departments which otherwise would be impossible to do without interrupting normal teaching programmes. Opponents of the idea however, argue that such a system would require a re-organisation of school timetables, and would most certainly cause a degree of confusion to the normal life of working mothers, and create more difficulties at two-shift-a-day schools, with long delays in the evening classes.

Arguments put forth in the local press include a suggestion that various government departments should also join the five day week, thus offering parents the chance to plan for weekends with their children, overcome the problem of working mothers who leave children behind at home and the stage for boosting domestic tourism, enabling the public to visit tourist and archaeological sites in their country. If and when a five-day school week is established, children will no doubt be spending longer hours at school with probably a lunch break. This in turn opens the way for a surge in the catering business with the help of school canteens which in turn would create more jobs for the unemployed.

We are now at the debating stage, but should a decision on this issue appear difficult to take, then a survey could be useful to balance the pros and the cons on the one hand, and gather a wider margin of views on the other. As long as the public's interest is to be safeguarded, even a conference grouping officials, parents, students and teachers could be feasible.

Let us hope that no decision, is taken in this matter before all areas and avenues have been explored, and before the majority of the public is convinced of its benefits to the society as a whole.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday launched an attack on Israeli media which it said have been poisoning the atmosphere with a hostile propaganda campaign against Jordan. The paper said that the Israeli information services and the press have been trying to paint a negative picture about Jordan's national economy by misinterpreting the frank and open statement made by the Central Bank governor on television on the financial and monetary situation in the Kingdom. This Israeli campaign the paper said, is an evil one designed to shake the Jordanian people's confidence in their country and future. But, it said, that the citizens of Jordan are quite used to such tactics and firmly believe that this country remains a solid rock on which many intrigues, plots and other hostile actions break and get thwarted. The bank governor has shed light on the economic and monetary situation in the Kingdom, pointing to the fact that the Jordanian dinar could at any time fluctuate upwards or downwards in value depending on the basket of currencies to which it is linked, the paper noted. But, it added, this fact is being exploited by the Israeli media which misinterpreted the situation and cast doubt on Jordan's economic adaptation programme to serve its own evil interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the question of implementing resolutions passed by the Casablanca summit, pointing to the fact that a number of Arab leaders have been talking about the necessity for their implementation as soon as possible. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia considered the resolutions as a practical translation of the Arab leaders' ideas, while President Mubarak of Egypt and Algerian leaders have been dwelling on the same topic on which King Hassan of Morocco also commented on Tuesday, says Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer notes that since the resolutions were approved unanimously the Arab masses expect all their articles to be carried out in the letter and the spirit. The Arab masses expect one clear interpretation of these resolutions, and expect prompt implementation as they also expect to see their leaders meeting in six months' time from now to assess the results, the writer adds. He says that the coming few weeks serve as a touchstone for Arab leaders' resolve and credibility.

Al Dustour daily discussed a three-hour meeting chaired by King Hussein and attended by the representatives of the media information services in the Kingdom. The paper said that the King tackled all subjects of concern to the Jordanian citizens in general and dwelt on the methods that should be adopted in dealing with news in the press. King Hussein summed up the Casablanca summit meeting and its outcome, discussed Jordanian economic measures, touched on the situation in Lebanon and focused attention on the Palestine question and Jordan's on-going support for the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom, the paper noted. It said King Hussein breathed renewed hope in the hearts of the Jordanian people when he announced that Arab countries have responded favourably to Jordan's financial needs, and when he announced that parliamentary life will soon return to the Kingdom. The meeting with the King the paper said was a precious one for the press and marked a new era in the channels of communication between the leader and his people.

Power struggle seen in China when Deng dies

By William Kazer
Reuter

PEKING — The shake-up in the Peking leadership prompted by mass student protests over the past six weeks is only a foretaste of the race to succeed elderly strongman Deng Xiaoping, diplomats say.

"This is only round one," said a Western diplomat.

"The settlement, whatever it is, will be short-term, lasting only until Deng dies," said another.

Deng, China's 84-year-old senior leader and the architect of an economic reform programme begun in 1978, has for the moment thrown his considerable influence behind hardliners who have closed ranks under the banner of Premier Li Peng.

He has split with his former protégé, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who has supported student protesters in their quest for greater freedom and political reform.

Zhao has not been seen in public in 10 days and is expected to be accused of major errors or even of leading an anti-party clique.

"Much depends on how long Deng lives," said a diplomat.

"But people who support him may not back his successors."

Deng is in reasonably good health for his age but he tires easily, rarely holding official meetings in the afternoon. He is often unsteady when forced to stand for long periods.

Li Peng, 60, a Soviet-trained engineer who appears to have benefitted most from the current

power struggle, will be manoeuvring to consolidate his power in whatever time Deng has left, they said.

He has not been close to Deng, who backed his rival in the past, but the two are believed to have forged an alliance of convenience.

"At the moment, Li needs Deng," said a diplomat. "And Deng has to rely on Li since he has broken with the leading reformer over political change. Deng may see Li as someone who may protect his economic reforms."

Party stalwarts like Chen Yun, the ailing 84-year-old who has favoured central economic planning, and Peng Zhen, 87, former chairman of China's parliament, have thrown their support behind Li.

"But the whole equation may soon change," said a diplomat. "They have all been united in their opposition to Zhao. But once he is formally removed, then they will be fighting among themselves."

Much depends on how many reformers are purged along with Zhao. The Communist Party chief has considerable support within the party and government as well as among the public in general.

"Li Peng or anyone else will find it very difficult to run a government without the support of these people," said a diplomat.

The current power struggle has also shown China specialists that for all of the country's impressive reforms since 1978 one area has not changed, the lack of a smooth succession process.

The Philippines: heading for unrest?

By Larry Jagan

MANILA — The Philippines could be heading for Latin American-style unrest as the country's leaders accept the austere terms imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Prices of essential goods will soar, warn critics, leading to food riots in the coming months on the scale of those recently experienced in Venezuela.

A storm of protest erupted when the Aquino administration announced last month the conditions of the IMF \$1.3 billion loan package which it had negotiated.

Under the agreement with the IMF, the Philippines government must reduce public spending by \$838 million and increase the prices of rice — the country's staple food — electricity, water and transport. All this is clearly set out in the "letter of intent" which the Philippines is obliged to sign before the loan is actually made available.

Solita Monsod, the Economic Planning Secretary, excluded by Aquino from the government's recent discussions with IMF officials, angrily attacked the conditions imposed by the IMF: they would produce a downturn in economic growth and accelerate inflation, she said, resulting in massive political unrest and public protest.

The government, however, argues that the agreement is an essential step to getting funds which, it is hoped, will help the Philippines land reform programme among other areas.

The government is seeking \$3 billion in new loans and expects

to get some \$10 billion through the proposed international Philippine Aid Plan. This mini-Marshall Plan (the name of the economic aid scheme which enabled Europe to recover from the ravages of World War II was first proposed by the USA over a year ago. It is expected to come into operation later this year now that the IMF has given the Aquino administration a "seal of good housekeeping".

With the IMF's acceptance that the Philippines economy is basically sound, officials are confident that donors, particularly the U.S. and Japan, will readily commit money to the multi-aid plan when they meet at the World Bank-sponsored pledging meeting in Tokyo next month.

"This will be our last chance," says Roberto Villanueva, who is in charge of the aid programme. "If we fail, the Philippines will be perennially rocked by instability well into the next century."

At the root of the country's problem is its enormous foreign debt, much of which was accumulated during the Marcos era and which currently totals around \$30 billion. According to Amado Mendoza, an economics lecturer at the University of the Philippines and an anti-debt campaigner, each Filipino currently owes \$500 to foreign lenders.

As if this burden was not enough, he says, the government is eager to deepen national indebtedness and even has the "gall" to claim that this is actually an answer to the country's development needs.

"Foreign debt — the poison! IMF — the disease," proclaimed

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a poster at a recent rally against debt in Manila.

"What the IMF is saying is that if we want to grow we must grow at the expense of the people," says Senator John Osmeña.

"It is the poor who will have to continue bearing the burden of our debt repayments," thunders Senator Alberto Romulo, who was President Aquino's first finance minister.

Letter of intent

"Thirty million Filipinos — half the population — live in absolute poverty, and the numbers are growing annually," he continues. "By late last year the percentage of the population below the poverty line had risen to 66 per cent."

The "letter of intent", dubbed by many senators as the "letter of discontent", also sets out the Aquino government's economic policies and targets until 1992, the next presidential election year.

According to government projections, the economy will sustain a 6.5 per cent real annual growth until 1992. And although foreign debt will grow to nearly \$32 billion by then, the government

predicts that the debt, as a proportion of the gross domestic product, will fall from two-thirds to around a half, making it easier to pay.

Government officials, vehemently argue that refusing to pay its debt would turn the country into an international financial pariah and deter future foreign aid and investment which are seen as essential to economic growth. There is no alternative, they insist, to taking on new loans in order to service existing ones and to reinstate foreign confidence in the economy.

At a recent lunch with European businessmen in Manila, guests of the government — the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ramon Mitra, emphasised even the most ardent supporters of government policy when, with tears in his eyes, he pleaded with his audience to invest in the Philippines.

Many argue that the Philippines is caught in a debt trap which makes it increasingly difficult to break out of its poverty. They say that giving creditors 44 cents of every peso the government spends is actually preventing it from implementing constructive development policies.

— PANOS.

Argentina reconsiders possibility of early handover of power

By Alberto Arebalo
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — The possibility has re-emerged of an early handover of power from Argentine President Raul Alfonsín to President-elect Carlos Menem despite Alfonsín's pledge to see out his term, which ends on Dec. 10.

"The bringing forward of the handover is still an issue — it is a step that should be taken as an answer to an emergency," said senator Eduardo Menem, a brother of the president-elect, two weeks after his Peronist movement trounced the ruling radicals.

Alfonsín, who last weekend offered to step down in favour of Menem but decided to stick out his full six-year term, could yet have to leave office early due to

the deepening economic crisis. Alfonsín on Sunday went on television to announce a package of emergency measures to tackle Argentina's worst ever economic crisis, including strict currency controls, higher taxes and cuts in public spending.

Monthly inflation is forecast at over 100 per cent for June, purchasing power of salaries has crumbled and there has been a wave of supermarket looting.

Alfonsín had promised the package after talks on an early handover of power to the Peronists broke down last week. Menem said on Sunday, however, that he was ready to assume the presidency if necessary.

"I don't want to talk about that issue. The handover will take place on Dec. 10, but we are ready to take office at any time," Menem told reporters in his

home province of La Rioja, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires.

The mass-circulation daily Clarín's Sunday political column was particularly blunt about the political problem Argentina is suffering.

"A finished government, lacking political clout and credible reflexes, lives side by side with an elected government which demands time to adjust its coming to power," Clarín's political columnist Joaquín Morales Sola said.

"One's impotence and the other's needs are desperately protracting social conflict and economic collapse," he added.

With the perspective of a three-digit monthly inflation, an industrial crisis and a wave of supermarket looting, politicians and business leaders say a six-month transi-

tion period is too long.

The emergency economic package, whose content had been widely foreseen, did nothing to calm anxieties.

"What's needed here is a confidence shock, because this government lacks confidence both inside and outside the country," said Menem, who last week said he would take power early if all sectors backed him.

Menem's economic advisers are working on a programme they say will bring down inflation to 12 per cent per year in 18 months from the day he takes charge, given support from large local economic groups.

"Menem has the plan, the confidence and the backing, all of which the government lacks. What are we waiting for to have Menem in power?" one businessman said.

'Young Turk' will not solve problems

By Marcelo Cantelmi
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — The appointment of a 33-year-old legislator as Argentina's economy minister has been condemned by financial experts who say he will be unable to pull the country out of its chronic economic crisis.

The unexpected naming of Jesus Rodriguez, head of a lower house budget and treasury committee since 1985, also exposed the political isolation of President Raul Alfonsín, who after a two-day search had to settle for one of the "Young Turks" who helped him win the presidency in 1983.

"One cannot get out of hyperinflation without credibility. You overcome it with political and economic power and Rodriguez lacks it," Enrique Szewach, chief economist of the Latin American Economic Investigations Foundation, told Reuters.

"The situation has not changed one iota with Rodriguez's appointment and won't change soon," said Osvaldo Corvide, president of CAME, a small- and medium-sized business chamber which has said that retail sales fell 70 per cent during May.

The experts said they doubted whether Rodriguez would be able to rein in runaway inflation that private economists forecast will top 50 per cent during May alone.

"Alfonsín's move to put a man with no credibility within the markets at the helm of the economy ministry at this crucial time is a negative view of a solution," the influential business daily Ambito Financiero said.

Alfonsín had promised to impose an "economy of war" to contain prices after his offer to step down before his term ends on December 10 was turned down on Tuesday by president-elect Carlos Menem.

Alfonsín's Radical Party was beaten convincingly by opposition Peronists in the May 14 elections.

Since Tuesday Alfonsín looked within and outside his party for a candidate to stabilise the chaotic economy, which, coupled with political uncertainty over the long transition period, spurred interest

rates over 300 per cent a month and caused the Argentine currency, the austral, to lose half its value against the U.S. dollar in last week's trading.

His efforts, were fruitless because most of the men he consulted demanded a freer economy than the radicals were willing to back, party sources said.

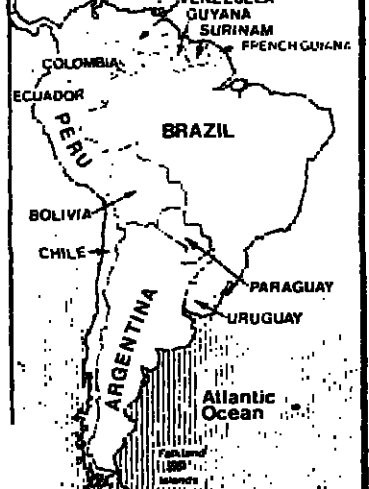
Alfonsín finally settled for a fellow Social Democrat with a following among the Radical Party youth and a reputation as a hard-nosed negotiator acknowledged by political opponents.

Government sources, who asked not to be identified, said the measures Rodriguez would

most probably carry out involved exchange rate controls to shore up the austral, tax increases and cuts in tax breaks and export incentives for industries.

A similar set of measures were rejected on Tuesday by Menem, who said Peronism would not endorse a programme which was "patently against the people."

Rodriguez is a staunch backer of former economy minister Juan Sourrouille and former treasury secretary Mario Brodersohn, who resigned on March 31 after the then-radical presidential candidate, Eduardo Angeloz, said they lacked the ability to handle Argentina's economic problems.



OPEN FORUM

Spring in Jordan

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When Spring comes again,
When the blossoms are in bloom,
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Honeyuckles are all around
Daisies, roses in the frontyard,
Decorating the front of the house,
Exceeding beauty to emphasise,
The sight of that very known house to me,
Children play all around,
Watching carefree, the birds fly,
Calling to their partners to follow,
To make nests for their birdsies,
The skies are so blue and wide,
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Pauline Sweiss

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SEPT / SEPT

"Voici pourquoi ils me tiennent". Le député israélien de gauche, Yossi Sarid, membre du Mouvement des droits civiques (Ratz) et favorable à la création d'un Etat palestinien indépendant, a provoqué un certain émoi en publiant la semaine dernière son "testament politique" dans les colonnes du journal Haaretz. Convenu d'être sur la liste noire des extrémistes de droite d'ISRAEL, il a mis en garde les autorités de l'Etat hébreu contre tout laxisme à l'égard des "fanatiques et (...) brutes de toutes sortes". Connu pour avoir été à l'origine, en 1984, du démantèlement d'un réseau terroriste juif anti-arabe opérant en Cisjordanie occupée, il s'est inquiété de leur remise en liberté après de courtes peines de prison en raison du soutien explicite que leur a apporté le Likoud et notamment Yitzhak Shamir. Dénonçant leur implication dans les récentes expéditions punitives de colons contre des villages palestiniens, le cri d'alarme de Yossi Sarid a été relayé dimanche au cours du Conseil des ministres par une véhémence accusatoire prononcée par le chef d'Etat-major israélien à l'encontre de ces pratiques. Les déshérences qui se font jour dans la classe politique face à l'engrenage de la violence dans les territoires occupés ont conduit lundi le président français, François Mitterrand à évoquer la "gravité des affrontements" et à appeler les dirigeants israéliens à la "lucidité". La radicalisation du gouvernement de Tel-Aviv n'est sans doute pas non plus étrangère à la prudence diplomatique affichée quelques jours plus tôt par l'Angleterre, lors du voyage à Londres de M. Shamir. Le premier ministre israélien n'a en effet guère plus obtenu qu'un vague soutien à son plan de paix.

Changeant son fusil d'épaule, Yitzhak Shamir a lancé un appel aux pays arabes les invitant à "une table de négociations", à l'issue du SOMMET DE CASABLANCA, au cours duquel a été notamment acceptée la résolution 242 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur le droit à l'existence d'Israël. Selon les observateurs, la décision de la conférence arabe fournit surtout un solide appui à la stratégie pacifique de l'OLP. Tout en demandant la convocation d'une conférence internationale de paix sur le Proche-Orient, les chefs d'Etat de ce gouvernement arabes réunis au Maroc n'ont en effet admis le principe d'élections en Cisjordanie et à Gaza qu'une fois obtenu le retrait total des forces de Tshah. Unanimes dans leur soutien à la cause palestinienne, ils n'ont pas réussi à trouver de solution efficace et originale pour sortir le Liban de l'ornière. Alors que certains, Irak en tête, prônaient la manière forte pour obtenir le retrait des forces "étrangères" syriennes, israéliennes et iraniennes du pays du Cèdre, le sommet s'est limité à la création d'un comité de trois dirigeants (les souverains marocain et saoudien, ainsi que le président algérien) chargé de trouver une solution politique au conflit. Satisfaisante pour Damas, cette décision ressemble à s'y méprendre à la mission confiée, en janvier dernier, à un comité ministériel de la Ligue arabe, qui avait abouti elle à une impasse totale. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Retour au panier. La banque centrale jordanienne (BCJ) a décidé lundi de rattacher le dinar à un panier de devises et d'abandonner la pratique, instituée il y a près d'un an, d'un taux quotidien obligatoire uniquement lié au dollar. Adoptée au cours de la première réunion de la BCJ depuis la nomination de son nouveau gouverneur, Mohammad Said Al-Nabulsi, cette mesure vise à renforcer les réserves en devises du Trésor qui avaient atteint en mars dernier leur niveau le plus bas (220 millions de dollars). Par ailleurs, les banques privées se sont vues imposer le dépôt systématique de 35% de leurs fonds en monnaies étrangères auprès de la BCJ. M. Nabulsi a également précisé lors d'une interview à la télévision nationale, que la Jordanie ne détenait plus que "des deux tiers de ses réserves en or, qui s'élevaient à un million d'onces". Le gouvernement de la banque centrale a enfin affirmé que la dette extérieure du royaume "s'élève à 8,1 milliards de dollars, sans compter les intérêts", et non entre 6 et 7 milliards, comme l'indiquaient les autorités jusqu'à présent.

Indépendance. Six mille élèves et étudiants des écoles publiques et privées ont participé lundi à la célébration du 43ème anniversaire de l'indépendance de la Jordanie, sur la pelouse du stade de la cité sportive d'Amman. En présence du roi Hussein, de la reine Noor et du prince héritier Hassan, près de deux mille jeunes ont notamment formé un tableau vivant représentant les quatre chefs d'Etat des pays membres du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA). La fête nationale, qui devait intervenir le 25 mai, avait été reportée en raison du voyage du souverain hachémite à Casablanca pour le sommet arabe extraordinaire.

Repos. Le ministère de l'Education a engagé samedi dernier un débat public sur l'éventuelle augmentation du nombre de jours de congés hebdomadaires dans les écoles. Parents et enseignants ont été invités à se prononcer sur l'instauration, dès l'année prochaine, d'un week-end de deux jours (vendredi et samedi) dans les établissements publics et privés. Selon les autorités, la réforme du rythme scolaire se traduirait par un accroissement d'une demi-heure à quarante-cinq minutes des horaires de cours chaque semaine. Elle permettrait surtout aux instituteurs et professeurs de bénéficier d'une matinée durant laquelle les services publics sont ouverts, "sans réduction de salaire" promet-on au ministère.

Deux siècles. Le sultan Qabous d'Oman est arrivé mardi à Paris pour une visite officielle de quatre jours en France, la première du genre d'un souverain omanais depuis l'instauration des relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays, il y a deux cents ans. Le sultan Qabous s'est entretenu mardi après-midi avec François Mitterrand. Il a également été reçu, hier, par le maire de Paris, Jacques Chirac, puis par le premier ministre, Michel Rocard. Selon un quotidien des Emirats, cette visite pourrait notamment donner lieu à l'achat par Oman de Mirage 2 000 français.

Sida. Plus de 5 000 nouveaux cas de sida ont été enregistrés au mois de mai par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, portant à 151 191 le nombre total de malades signalés à l'OMS. Le tiers d'entre eux concerne le continent américain. L'institution des Nations-Unies estime néanmoins que le nombre réel des cas de sida dans le monde avoisine les 400 000, et qu'il se situera entre 5 et 10 millions dans dix ans.

Bouygues en Libye. Le groupe français Bouygues, numéro un mondial du bâtiment et des travaux publics, étudie actuellement, à la tête d'un consortium de sept entreprises européennes, un projet d'irrigation de la côte libyenne. Il s'agit, selon le président de la société, Francis Bouygues, d'acheminer de l'eau pompée à 800 kilomètres au sud de Tripoli par une énorme canalisation de plus de six mètres de diamètre. Coût de l'ouvrage: six milliards de dollars.

Fausse piste. Deux pilotes australiens ont été suspendus de leurs fonctions la semaine dernière pour avoir confondu... une autoroute avec la piste d'atterrissage de l'aéroport de Mackay, dans le nord du pays. Le 14 mai, ils avaient failli poser leur Boeing 737 sur la chaussée. Ce n'est qu'à une cinquantaine de mètres du sol qu'ils se sont aperçus de leur "erreur".

Poker à l'as. Trois cents policiers israéliens ont brutalement interrompu le week-end dernier les parties de poker et de roulette qui fleurissaient depuis plusieurs mois au large du port d'Eilat, sur la Mer Rouge. Interdits de séjour en Israël, les "fumeurs" avaient ingénieusement mis au point des casinos flottants, qui apparaissaient le soir et étaient l'ancrage hors des eaux territoriales. Une centaine d'entre eux ont été arrêtés au cours de cette opération coup de poing sur le tapis vert.

Appelez-moi Myanma. La Birmanie a décidé de changer de nom et de s'appeler désormais Myanma. Selon la presse officielle, cette modification vise à tenir compte des minorités ethniques qui cohabitent dans le pays avec la majorité birmane. Majorité qui ne devrait pas se sentir trop dépaylée: "Myanma" est pratiquement synonyme de Birmanie dans leur langue. On appelle ça le changement dans la continuité.

De l'invention de l'hôpital à l'opération de la cataracte

Quand l'Islam encourage la médecine arabe

Protégés, responsabilisés, valorisés, les médecins des premiers siècles de l'Islam ont étonnamment enrichi la pratique médicale. Dévots de la science, ils se sont distingués comme d'excellents chirurgiens et psychothérapeutes. La Renaissance européenne leur doit notamment le premier manuel d'ophtalmologie.

L'hôpital, tel que nous le concevons aujourd'hui, a plus de neuf cents ans. Services spécialisés, isolement des malades contagieux, enregistrement des patients, fourniture de vêtements spéciaux et garde des effets personnels jusqu'à la fin des traitements... Des le XIe siècle, ces principes "modernes" ont guidé la construction et le fonctionnement des établissements hospitaliers en Perse et en Irak.

Souvent dotés d'une école et d'une bibliothèque, ces centres de soins d'un genre nouveau, et qui fleurissent dans le monde musulman du VIIIe au XIIe siècles, ont souvent été à l'origine du développement prodigieux du nombre des praticiens. Protégés, encouragés et souvent financés par les notables, sinon les califes eux-mêmes, les étudiants et professionnels de la médecine musulmane ont ainsi bénéficié, dès le début du IXe siècle, des traductions des oeuvres grecques, perses, indiennes et syriaques.

Prolifique, la profession n'en était pas moins contrôlée. Tout médecin devait obtenir une licence avant d'exercer. En clair, il passait un examen, dont la tradi-

tion s'est maintenue avec plus ou moins de rigueur jusqu'à la fin du Moyen-Age. Le comportement du médecin durant sa carrière était lui aussi régi par des devoirs moraux inspirés de l'Islam. Le praticien se devait notamment de connaître la situation sociale, familiale du patient. Une attention, qui selon certains traités devait précéder tout diagnostic et prescription. Et ce dès le IXe siècle.

Ces notions morales tacites donnaient peu à peu naissance à un véritable code déontologique. Entre autres qualités, le médecin devait afficher modestie, vertu et charité. Il ne devait être ni avarice, ni méprisant, ni alcoolique... et se conduire "honnêtement" avec les femmes. Il était tenu au secret professionnel à l'instar du serment formulé par Hippocrate quatorze siècles plus tôt. Contrairement à la pratique contemporaine, un médecin ne devait en aucun cas pronostiquer la mort d'un patient, quelque soit ses certitudes. Harcelé par les multiples questions d'un malade ou de sa famille, il devait garder son calme et répondre avec clarté et précision. Les prérogatives du



Un prince, un médecin et son assistant, exprimant par leur réunion la parfaite osmose entre le pouvoir et le monde médical dans l'Islam. (Illustration d'un traité médical du XIIIe siècle).

malade étaient telles que s'il souhaitait consulter un autre praticien, le médecin de famille devait se soumettre, voire reconnaître ses torts si le second diagnostic contredisait le sien.

L'Islam a aussi encouragé la psychothérapie. Médecin et philosophe du Xe siècle, Al-Razi formule une distinction explicite entre maladies physiques et mentales. Il alla même jusqu'à recommander à ses collègues de recréer le cadre de vie du patient pour

favoriser la guérison. Au XIe siècle, Ibn Bultun inventa la musicothérapie: "C'est un soin de l'âme, comme les drogues soignent le corps malade", soutient-il.

Compétition et défis scientifiques obligent, les médecins se sont peu à peu spécialisés. Anatomie et chirurgie apparaissent alors comme les branches les plus développées. Des découvertes archéologiques attestent l'existence d'instruments chirurgicaux

des VIIIe siècle. Au début du XIe siècle, le chirurgien Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi rédige plusieurs traités sur sa spécialité, dont certains seront traduits en latin puis en français et en anglais. Il dresse notamment une liste impressionnante de points de suture avec leurs propriétés spécifiques. Il met en garde contre les amputations au dessus du genou ou du coude. On lui doit encore l'identification des paralysies dues aux blessures de la

colonne vertébrale ainsi que la description de plus de 200 instruments chirurgicaux, dont nombre ont servi de modèles à ceux d'aujourd'hui.

Minute par minute

Au XIIIe siècle, d'autres découvertes importantes enrichissent la médecine. Le Syrien Ibn Al Nafis, installé au Caire met en évidence la circulation sanguine dans les poumons, plus de 350 ans avant William Harvey. Son contemporain, Ibn Al-Quff, signe lui un texte remarquable, dans lequel il décrit le développement de l'embryon et révèle ses expérimentations pour prédire le sexe du fœtus. Al Razi, pour sa part fut sans doute l'un des médecins les plus originaux de tout le Moyen-Age. On lui doit plus de 50 ouvrages traitant de la thérapie, de la pharmacopée et de la chimie. C'est lui qui identifia et différencia définitivement les symptomatologies respectives de la rougeole et de la petite vérole.

Mais c'est sans doute dans le domaine du traitement des maladies de l'oeil que la médecine arabe fut la plus riche. Elle domina cette spécialité jusqu'à la fin du Moyen-Age. Hunayn écrit ainsi plus de dix traités d'ophtalmologie, considérés comme les premiers manuels systématiques d'anatomie de l'oeil, dotés d'une terminologie et de définitions organiques. Plus extraordinaire encore sont les travaux de l'Irakien Ammar Al-Mawasil. Il consacra notamment une étude à l'opération de la cataracte, indiquant les instruments chirurgicaux utilisés et décrivant l'intervention elle-même, minute par minute.

Alain Renon.

Sommet de l'OTAN sur les armes nucléaires tactiques

Réduire et non supprimer

Surmontant des divisions qui risquaient de faire capoter leur neuvième sommet, les 16 pays de l'OTAN ont passé mardi à Bruxelles "un accord de principes" qualifié de "profond et complet" sur l'ouverture de négociations visant à réduire les armes nucléaires tactiques (SNF, moins de 500 mètres de portée).

Le compromis, qui fait de ce sommet un succès majeur pour l'OTAN, s'est dégagé dans la nuit de lundi à mardi après des heures de discussions acharnées entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères des 16 pays membres. L'accord stipule que l'objectif d'éventuelles négociations sera la réduction des SNF à un niveau inférieur au

niveau actuel" des deux alliances, autrement dit l'OTAN et le Pacte de Varsovie. Les pourparlers ne pourront cependant commencer que lorsque les discussions de Vienne sur le désarmement conventionnel (FCE), ouvertes en mars, auront débouché sur un large accord et un "début d'application".

Le texte du "concept global de désarmement et de maîtrise des armements", qui englobe les paragraphes de l'accord sur les SNF, souligne que la sécurité de l'OTAN continue de dépendre des armes nucléaires. Le "concept global", qui lie les questions de sécurité et de désarmement, a donc été adopté mardi par les

chefs d'Etat et les gouvernements de l'alliance Atlantique. Son approbation était suspendue à la réussite des discussions sur les SNF, noeud gordien que les alliés n'avaient pas réussi à trancher depuis deux ans.

Sur la question cruciale d'une élimination totale des SNF, la fameuse "troisième option zéro" n'a toujours pas obtenu l'assentiment des Britanniques, des Américains ni des Français. Le sujet n'est d'ailleurs même pas évoqué dans le texte du "concept global".

Les 16 pays ont conclu un accord de principe malgré une réserve de la Grande Bretagne sur le fait que "la troisième option zéro" n'ait pas été explicitement écartée. Outre la réduction des SNF, la résolution adoptée porte sur le successeur du lance fusée sol-sol de 110 mètres de portée, dont 88 sont déployées en Europe par l'OTAN.

La modernisation des SNF faisait également partie des sujets ultra-sensibles, ayant longtemps opposé les Etats-Unis et la RFA. La concrétisation de l'accord signé avant hier à Bruxelles dépend désormais des conclusions des négociations de Vienne sur le désarmement conventionnel. (D'après agences).

Proverbes

L'aphorisme universel

Toute langue a ses proverbes. Toujours elliptiques, souvent éloquentes, ils filent dans chaque société la métaphore la plus accessible. Ces aphorismes populaires, fréquemment oraux avant de se retrouver couchés sur le papier, varient d'un pays à l'autre. Ou plutôt d'une culture à l'autre. Si l'imagerie change, le message, un tantinet philosophique, demeure universel. Voici six maximes arabes, avec leurs équivalents français, qui en témoignent.

C'est dans les plus petits fleurons qu'on trouve les meilleurs parfums. (Plutôt la qualité que la quantité) Un grain de précaution vaut mieux qu'un boisseau de médicaments. (Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir) Il est préférable d'avoir un oiseau dans la main que dix dans un arbre. (Un tiens vaut mieux que deux tu l'auras) L'oeil amoureux ne voit rien. (L'amour est aveugle) La patience est la clé de la sérénité. (Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre) Le repas d'un seul suffit pour deux. (Quand il y en a pour un, il y en a pour deux).

Mots croisés

Par Florence Mandil

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Verticalement.

A: félicitation. B: préposition; note. C: limites. D: éviter; forme d'être. E: pronom personnel; article indéfini; rivière du bassin parisien. F: habitantes de la Botte. G: aller en justice; reste à payer. H: composent le squelette; d'autant plus précieuse qu'elle est rare. I: choisi; pour les chiens. J: ancienne unité de mesure; fait la liaison.

Horizontalement.

1: on y fait le café. 2: ils bordent les vêtements. 3: inclusif ou exclusif; carte maitresse. 4: grosses montres. 5: résister; lettre grecque. 6: infinitif; négation. 7: change de voix... ou de peau; pronom indéfini. 8: enlacer. 9: isolée. 10: essayés; l'un des points cardinaux.

(Solution en bas de page)

Nouveau restaurant à Amman

Francophagie galopante



Un nouveau restaurant spécialisé dans la cuisine française a ouvert ses portes et fourneaux le 23 mai à Amman, près du sixième cercle. "The Three Horses", comme son nom ne l'indique pas, propose notamment une fondue bourguignonne au prix de cinq dinars et demi par personne. On peut également, et plus volontiers pendant les grosses chaleurs, s'y faire servir un excellent "steak Diana" (ou au poivre) flambé au cognac pour deux dinars. La viande est tendre, la cuisson réussie et le service irréprochable... si ce n'est un peu long. Vous craquez peut-être pour un Chablis ou un Saint-Emilion. A condition d'avoir garni le portefeuille: il vous en coûtera en effet entre onze et quatorze dinars. La décoration de la petite salle du restaurant (une trentaine de couverts) est plutôt chaleureuse, hésitant entre le chalais suisse et le relais de diligences. Sachez encore que le trio qui s'est lancé dans l'aventure est composé d'un chef cuisinier égyptien et de deux maîtres d'hôtel syrien et jordanien. Le premier a déjà une longue expérience de la cuisine française, dont il était chargé au Shiraton Hôtel du Caire. Le second a fait son apprentissage au Méridien et au Shame Palace de Damas. Le dernier a successivement travaillé au Razi à Irbid puis à Shmeisani, avant de relever le défi lancé par le propriétaire du lieu, Nabil Samir Biedas.

The Three Horses, sixième cercle. Ouvert tous les jours de midi à minuit. Tél: 825 892. Prendre la direction de l'Amra en venant du rond-point, puis première à gauche après l'hôtel. Le restaurant se trouve sur la droite, juste après le premier carrefour.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Stage door, de Gregory La Cava, avec Lucille Ball, Katherine Hepburn et Ginger Rogers (noir et blanc). Une incursion dans les rêves des adolescentes d'un dortoir d'école. Dans la tradition hollywoodienne, qui veut que toutes les jeunes filles se voient un jour ou l'autre en haut de l'affiche.

Centre américain, jeudi 1er et dimanche 4 juin à 19h00 (en anglais).

Le grand chemin, de Jean-Loup Hubert, avec Antoine Hubert, Richard Bohringer et Anémone (1986). Pour Louis, petit parisien de 9 ans, les vacances de l'été 1959 s'annoncent mal. Confiné par sa mère à un couple de villageois bretons, il fait brusquement l'apprentissage de la vie...

Centre culturel français, lundi 5 juin à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Femmes de personne, de Christopher Frank, avec Marthe Keller, Fanny Cottençon, Caroline Cellier, Jean-Louis Trintignant et Philippe Léotard (1986). La vie de trois jeunes femmes, qui travaillent dans le même centre de radiologie. Entre les aventures passagères de l'une, la vie rangée de la deuxième, la troisième affiche une trajectoire sentimentale et romantique...

Centre culturel français, mercredi 7 juin à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 19h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 1er: Rebecca; Picnic at Hanging Rock.

Rock: Seven Samurai; Citizen Kane; Brazil.

Vendredi 2: Monty Python and the holy grail; Space balls; Nine and a half weeks; Near dark; 2001, space odyssey.

Samedi 3: Barry Lindon; Night flight; Wedding in Galilee; Al zahra al-Baryia (téléfilm jordanien); Unscented love; Dimanche 4: The rape; The fly; Salvador; Hamburger hill; Cry in the dark.

Lundi 5: Suddenly last summer; Still the sky; Rainman; Working girl; Mosquito cost.

Mardi 6: Witness; La grande illusion; The mummy; The accused; Empire of the sun; Mercredi 7: Alamo; A quiet man; Cowboy; Mississippi burning; Top secret.

Films en version originale. Tél: 603981. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, 388 m.

EXPOSITION

A la carte. Dans le cadre des manifestations du 43ème anniversaire de l'indépendance, le Centre géographique royal présente au public une exposition de photographies aériennes, d'images satellite, de matériel de topographie ainsi que de cartes classiques et dessinées par ordinateur. Centre culturel royal, du 4 au 6 juin (10h00-21h00).

TELEVISION

Les enquêtes du commissaire Malgrat, avec Jean Richard. Le célèbre fic français se retrouve obligé d'élucider un bien étrange assassinat auquel semble mêlé son ancien et non moins étrange collègue, l'inspecteur Malgratier.

JTV, vendredi 2 juin à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: cafétéria. 2: ourlet. 3: on; about. 4: pendules. 5: tenir; pl. 6: le; pas. 7: nœud; on; été. 8: étreindre. 9: essuie-tout. 10: tenés; est.

Verticalement.

A: compliment. B: au; ut. C: from; étreindre. D: éluder; est. E: te; un; chose. F: italiennes. G: exacer; da; H: os; perle; I: élue; Pâques. J: toise; et.

Can life be prolonged?

By David Holzman

CLIVE McCay essentially starved his rats. The nutritionist gave his laboratory rodents only 60 per cent of the calories they would have consumed if left to their own devices. The result: The maximum life span of the rats was increased by 80 per cent — what would be the equivalent of the oldest human living about 180 years.

McCay's ground-breaking experiments at Cornell University were published in 1935, and their results have been re-affirmed time and again. Humans do not live beyond the age of about 110. Those legends about the ancient yogurt eaters of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic are just that, legends, says Dr. Roy L. Walford, a leader in research on the aging process — and the laboratory rodents have their own maximum life span. Only McCay's dietary restriction has breached that maximum limit for rodents.

Why does food restriction prolong life? Gerontologists, those who study aging, agree that an answer might well solve the riddle of why humans age. But like the elderly themselves, the biology of aging has been one of the most neglected corners of the life sciences. "Dietary restriction was discovered in the early '30s, and over 50 years later we don't know how it works," says Richard G. Cutler of the National Institute on Aging.

"The field has only now progressed to the point where the testing of theories has become more important than describing observations, which is always a sign of the maturation of a scientific field," says Dr. Leonard Hayflick of the Centre for Gerontological Studies at the University for Florida. But, he adds pointedly, "None of the theories that have been put forth have been proven to the satisfaction of the majority."

Gerontology got moving in the mid-1970s. But even now, the budget of the National Institute on Aging represents only 2 per cent of spending by the National Institutes of Health, or little more than one tenth that of the National Cancer Institute.

Fundamental research on aging is "indeed neglected and relatively underfunded," says Dr. Robert N. Butler, chief of geriatrics at

New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital. "It is potentially the most economic research because instead of having to pick off one disease at a time we could be dealing with a fundamental change in the integrity of the entire biological system."

He offers the example of finding "ways to maintain the immune system in the face of aging." If these efforts were successful, "we would be gaining a foothold that would protect the body against a whole range of diseases."

There are more fundamental problems besides limited funds. The complexity of the aging process makes it a hard experimental nut to crack. For gerontologists, distinguishing between fundamental causes and the diseases that are secondary or tertiary to aging is difficult.

In fact, it is a little like peeling an onion. Many of the major theories about why we age — there are 10 by one gerontologist's count — are themselves probably a step or two removed from root causes, causes that are hidden from view by disease or degeneration.

Causes for aging

To confuse matters more, most researchers now think there are a number of root causes of aging. In fact, the whole phenomenon may be largely misunderstood. "There may be no such thing as primary aging," says physiologist Edward J. Masoro Jr. of the University of Texas at San Antonio. "When you are dealing with a whole animal you are dealing with subtle and complex interactions. It doesn't take much derangement for (bad interactions) and then soon, secondary events occur that lead to what we call aging. A small but growing number of people feel that way."

Researchers consider food restriction to be one of the most exciting techniques for probing theories of aging. It not only prolongs the lives of experimental rodents, it keeps them physiologically young well past the time when their fully fed counterparts have become the codgers of the laboratory.

Old diet-restricted rodents have low cholesterol levels, low blood pressure and a lower incidence of farsightedness and cataracts. They can also run mazes like youngsters.

Similarly, food-restricted rats suffer less from the diseases of aging. Cancer and kidney disease develop later in life. Says Masoro: "Food restriction keeps rats young in so many ways that one has to suspect it has retarded the aging process at its most fundamental level."

"If we could understand how one intervention slows all these processes we would have a much better idea of what causes aging," says Dr. Evan C. Hadley, chief of the geriatrics branch at the National Institute of Aging.

Though food restriction dates back as theory to the early part of the century, it was not until 1977 that the late George Sacher of Oak Ridge National Laboratory asked how, precisely, food restriction was related to the length of life.

Sacher knew that the life span of cold-blooded animals such as fish could be tripled and quadrupled by restricting their diets and lowering their metabolic rates, which is done by lowering water temperature.

Examining the literature, Sacher found that in laboratory rodents, each gram of tissue seemed to have a lifetime calorie quota. This was something like saying that a car would expire once it had burned, say, 2 gallons of gas for every pound it weighed. The calorie quota was identical in different rodents regardless of diet.

From this, Sacher offered the theory that food restriction prolonged life and slowed aging by increasing metabolic efficiency, just as one might expect frequent tune-ups to keep a car running more efficiently and make it last longer.

The notion that lower metabolic rate meant longer life implied that burning energy somehow results in damage to the body. In 1981, Denham Harman of the University of Nebraska medical school explained how this might happen when he linked metabolic rate to his free-radical theory of aging.

The free-radical theory holds that aging is the result of accumulated damage to crucial molecules, membranes and cells of the body. The damage is most severe in the DNA, the blueprint molecules of life.

The cause of the damage is thought to be free radicals, which Walford, of the University

of California at Los Angeles, calls "fragments of molecules that have become unstuck." As such, they are so unstable that they tend to react with the first molecule they encounter, damaging or destroying it in the process.

Aging, the theory holds, is caused by the gradual accumulation of such damage. Food restriction made the rats burn energy more efficiently, said Harman, and that meant a proportional reduction in the damage from cellular combustion.

But Sacher's restriction retards aging by reducing metabolic rate is controversial. Says Masoro: "Everyone wanted to believe it, because it made such intuitive sense, but there was something fundamentally wrong."

Contradictions

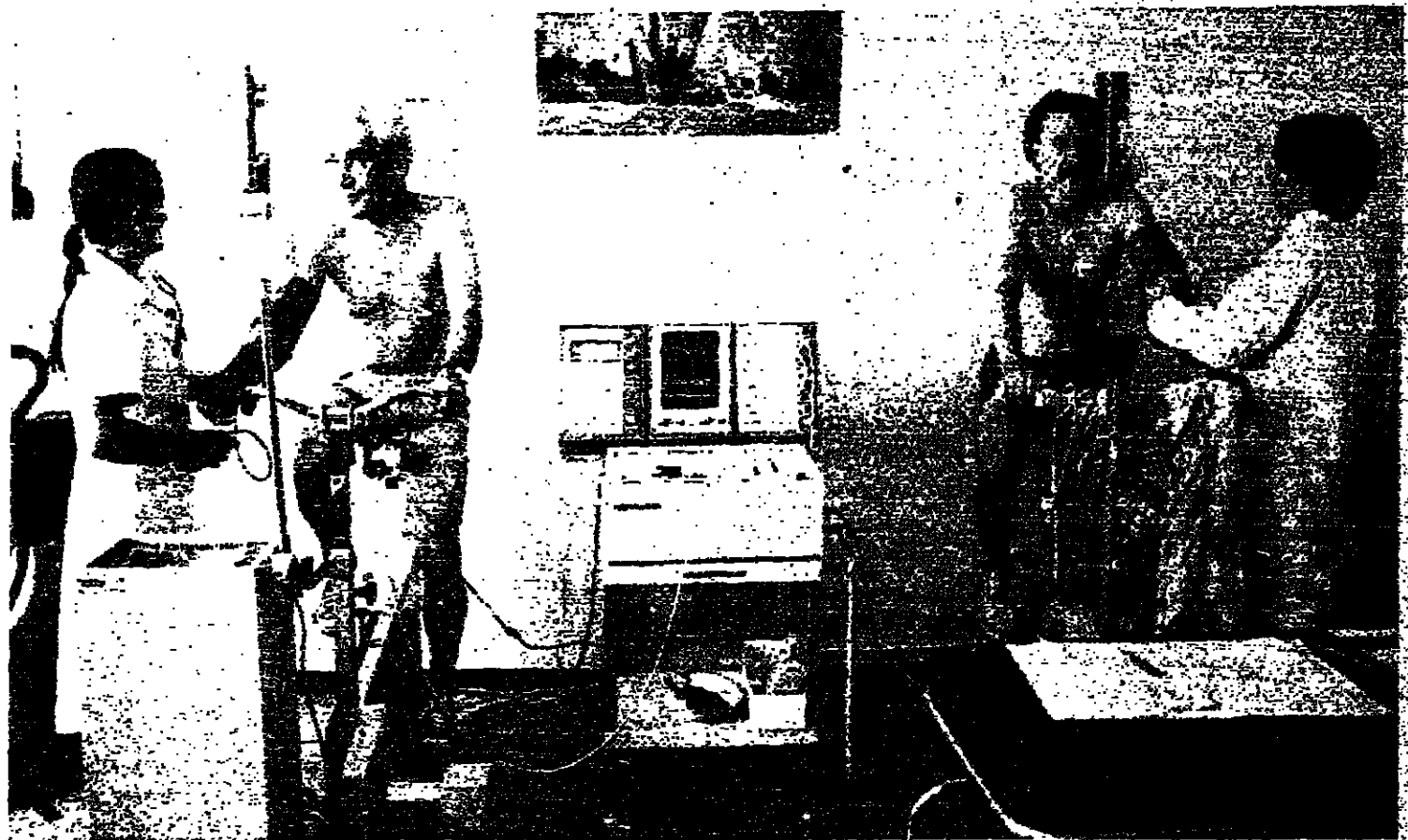
Measuring metabolic rate in two ways, Masoro came up with results that contradicted Sacher's findings. Restricted animals burned energy as intensely as their fully fed counterparts, Masoro found. Also, since they lived much longer, their tissues used from 25 per cent to 45 per cent more calories over a lifetime.

This suggested that food restriction lowered the damage from metabolism. Masoro suggests that, like certain antimicrobial devices, food restriction alters the chemistry of cellular combustion, reducing the free-radical load in the process.

Walford insists that "metabolic rate or something like that could be very important. The thing that has the effect on life span is lower energy intake." Although food-restricted animals are quite skinnier, Walford points out that their brains do not shrink and "could be getting by with fewer calories per gram per day." But right now, he admits, he has no evidence to contradict Masoro.

Complicating the damage theory further, food restriction appears to help the body defend itself against free radicals. Two mechanisms protect against molecular damage. One involves free-radical scavengers — chemicals the body produces that neutralise free radicals the way catalytic converters neutralise certain automotive pollutants. The second mechanism is DNA repair. Both systems seem to work more efficiently in food-restricted animals.

In fact, middle-aged food-res-



"Walford is so confident food restriction affects life span for all species, all the way to the highest of the primates, that he has restricted his own diet for about three years. The regime

has just been published in a how-to book that outlines the scientific basis for betting that food restriction will extend human life span. It's called 'The 120 Year Diet'."

rammed. Researchers can only guess where the programme is located. One candidate for the mechanism of executing the programme is through the hormones.

Says Illinois State's Richardson: "I can't see any mechanism except for may be hormonal control."

Masoro and Good find this notion appealing, and Good has detailed investigations under way. Caleb Finch of the University of Southern California finds that food restriction retards aging of the reproductive system, which is largely under hormonal control. Walford points out that the immune system could just as likely control again of other systems, or that the hormonal and immune systems might work together to exert such controls.

But if hormonal controls are involved, this still will not get to the bottom of the mystery of aging. For one thing, Walford suspects that some more fundamental form of aging must underlie hormonal control.

Critics frequently raise one caveat. The lives of laboratory rodents are artificially shortened by inactivity and gluttony, they

say. Starving the animals simply duplicates conditions of the wild, allowing them to achieve their normal maximum life spans.

But advocates point out that either way, changes in energy intake still have a powerful effect on life span that may alter the pace of aging at its most fundamental level. Furthermore, the studies may still have plenty of relevance for many U.S. citizens, whose all-you-can-eat diets and sedentary lives bear more similarity to those of lab animals than of their feral counterparts.

The Aging Institute has recently established a colony of food-restricted primates and hopes within five years to have evidence on whether diet restriction affects the life span in other animals.

Walford is not waiting for their results. He is so confident food restriction affects life span for all species, all the way to the highest of the primates, that he has restricted his own diet for about three years. The regime has just been published in a how-to book that outlines the scientific basis for betting that food restriction will extend human life span. It's called "The 120 Year Diet."

David Holzman writes for *Insight*, a U.S. weekly magazine.

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The 'monster of the Green Lagoon'

By Josephina Dominguez

A nuclear power plant has officially opened amid storms of protests from environmentalists who claim that it is dangerous.

VERACRUZ, Mexico — No grand inauguration proclaimed the opening of Laguna Verde nuclear plant last month. In an atmosphere of near-secrecy, Mexico's first nuclear power plant went on line, despite allegations that it poses serious safety hazards.

Laguna Verde (Green Lagoon) is 290 kilometres east of Mexico City, on the Gulf of Mexico near the state capital of Veracruz. The \$3.5 billion project has been in the pipeline for 20 years but it was only last October that the first "hot tests" began when one of the plant's two 654-megawatt reactors was loaded with enriched uranium fuel.

Controversy has characterised the 20-year-debate over Laguna Verde. Scientists feel the plant is unsafe and that contingency evacuation plans in the event of an accident are totally insufficient.

On the very first day of operation, according to the Mexico City News (the country's only daily English paper) the government conceded that there were several accidents "of no consequence": four workers were exposed to small amounts of radiation, described by a plant official as "not serious."

The plant's general director, Rafael Fernandez de la Garza, stated categorically, "whether

accidents occur or not, we will continue with the nuclear project."

Many opponents accuse the government of timing the start-up of the plant to attract the least public interest. Homero Aridjis, of the environmentally-active Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100) composed of artists, writers and intellectuals, says that CFE—the Federal Electric Commission, which is in charge of the plant's operations—hurried the opening day forward so that it would not coincide with the third anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster April 26, 1989 which would have suggested an uncomfortable parallel.

Press reports on Laguna Verde are relatively scarce, with environmental NGOs claiming that government officials keep a tight lid on information. Even that information does not get wide distribution: a newspaper costs 35 U.S. cents—one hour's work for the average construction worker—and adult illiteracy is high.

Of the few who have kept informed about Laguna Verde, many have formed anti-nuclear coalitions to try to stop the plant's operation, at least until all the safety conditions have been met. As an economic alternative they have proposed that the plant be converted to a gas-fuelled facility.

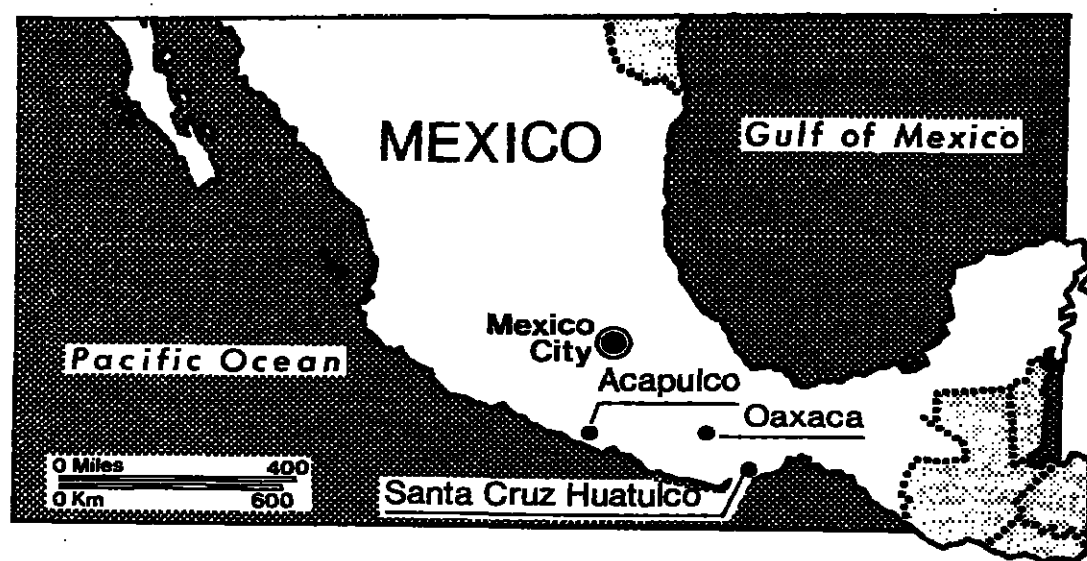
The government's stated reason for building Laguna Verde is to provide electric power for the region, and meet the needs of more than 300,000 people.

But critics charge that even at full capacity, the power plant will service a very small percentage of the population. One of these, Marco Antonio Martinez Negrete, a physics professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UAM), claims that less than 3 per cent of Mexico's electricity needs will be met, even at full capacity.

He has helped form a National Co-ordinating Body Against Laguna Verde (CONCLAVE)—a coalition of anti-nuclear groups. Just two days before the mid-April start-up, CONCLAVE members were barred from entering the Chamber of Deputies to present their case against the nuclear-electric power plant.

Two weeks later on April 30 an estimated 6,000 people—according to La Jornada (one of Mexico's leading daily papers) attended a protest march against the opening of the plant, at which many celebrities and environmental activists were present.

At another peaceful environmental gathering at the end of April—the first "Earth Day" celebration in Mexico City, Mar-



tiniz was among a handful collecting signatures for a petition asking that plant operations be halted.

He says the petition symbolises the right of the Mexican people to determine their country's energy policy. And he maintains that, apart from accidents, nuclear power plants emit enough radiation under normal working conditions over a period of years to cause sickness and death.

Official supporters of the project deny this however, saying that the plant meets all safety standards and that waste will be efficiently reprocessed.

One of CONCLAVE's information booklets on nuclear energy and Laguna Verde entitled "No a Laguna Verde" has listed their allegations of the plant's hazards.

They maintain that Laguna Verde uses General Electric's Mark II model which scientists have found defective: the U.S. government has stated that the

probability of a serious accident before the year 2000 at a plant designed by General Electric could be as high as 90 per cent. Critics feel the government should sue General Electric for selling a defective design.

They also say that Veracruz plant has been poorly constructed as, in 1980, the reactor's vessel was struck and subsequently damaged. The concrete container was merely patched.

Furthermore they maintain that it is built on a geological fault line and is within 8 kilometres of an active volcano called El Abra.

Finally, they say, official analysis of more than 30,000 failures and nuclear accidents in the U.S. has demonstrated that human error cannot be avoided. Human error was a large factor in the two major accidents of Chernobyl (Kiev, USSR) and Three Mile Island (Pennsylvania, USA).

If an explosion at Laguna Verde created the same radius of radioactivity as Chernobyl, they

say, it would reach Houston in the USA, and to the south, Managua in Nicaragua. Scientists predict that an explosion at Laguna Verde would span a much larger zone than that.

In addition, according to widespread press reports, it appears that the government plans to build at least eight more such plants.

Guillermo Guerrero Villalobos, director of the Federal Electric Commission (CFE), has admitted that there hasn't been enough public information regarding the Laguna Verde plant. One step to remedy this was the recent creation of the Laguna Verde Nuclear-electric Information Centre, to answer the public's questions and concerns.

However, it is doubtful that he would have had a ready reply when a child living near Laguna Verde asked her mother: "Where are we going to live if something happens here?" — PANOS.



An example of Fawziat art

Focus on People

Being creative

By Mariam M. Shahin

AT A time in life when most men and women bow out of the ranks of the official workforce, take up travelling — if within reach — or, more often than not, just sit at home getting on other people's nerves, some are lucky enough to find a new "life of productivity." Fawziat Tajiri Farouki is one of such lucky few. She talks about it to Focus on People this week.

AMMAN is the family retirement home for Mrs. Farouki, who, being married to a U.N. official, has had the chance to travel to many exotic places around the globe. She agrees that it was a little difficult in the beginning since she had never actually lived in Jordan and thus had very few friends in town.

Consequently, the Faroukis had a lot of free time in their hands. After an initial attempt at opening and running a small boutique failed, Farouki — quite by chance, by her own admission — tried her hand at painting along the styles of the mosaic art she had seen while on a visit to Madaba.

Using water colours borrowed from her grandchildren's schoolbook, Farouki started experimenting. Eventually she bought oil paints and plunged headlong into her hobby and project. Her painting was not done in the conventional style of brushstrokes but by simply making dots into geometric designs or images from nature. "I wanted to make something decorative for my home," she explained. "I thought of making a design around a mirror to hang at the entrance of my house. So I began painting on an engraved piece of wood, whose centrepiece would be a mirror."

Farouki found it amusing when, halfway through her work, a casual visitor asked whether it was for sale. But she agreed to sell it; it was not long before she started getting calls from people who wanted her "painted mirrors."

"It was hilarious at first. I burst out laughing," recalls the artist. "Of course, I was very flattered and pleased, but I had not expected such a reaction. I told the people to wait a while before I could produce some more."

That was in 1983. Since then, Farouki has held exhibitions in Amman, Cairo, Abu Dhabi and will exhibit in the United States this November. She has sold over 2000 pieces of art.

After producing a series of "mirror paintings" and paintings without mirrors, dubbed "Fawziat" art — a combination of "Fawzia" and "mosaics" — she also began to experiment in another line of art.

She began carving on a piece of firewood. Since then she has created wall carvings and decorative table legs as well as other pieces of functional art.

"I started getting into art as art," she says. "I began painting with brushstrokes as well as decorated wood with brass. But my clients told me 'don't, just continue doing the Fawziats because they are unique, nobody has done them and no one is doing them. This is your art.' So I continued, although sometimes people would ask me for certain colour combinations to suit their homes, but I only make something if I feel like it. I can't work on command. I create colour combinations and designs as I go along. Sometimes they reflect nature and often my imagination. I often dream certain images and the next day I try to reproduce them through my art."

Farouki begins working during the late afternoon and often ends up working until the wee hours of the morning. She says: "I don't need a lot of sleep. During the morning hours I receive friends, family, clients, and whoever wants to see me. I entertain at lunch and accept lunch invitations but dinner is out of the question for social gatherings. I must keep my work schedule."

Farouki's husband, Said, encourages her. "My greatest supporter is my husband," Farouki says beaming. "He takes care of everything for me. I just paint. He buys the colours, the wood and the mirrors and takes care of all arrangements outside of the house."

The Faroukis live in a cool, airy house whose outside wall are covered in green vegetation. Inside the house and in the big garden, flowers and plants collected from all over the world grow in abundance.

Many of the plant seeds and Farouki's imaginative designs in her art work have their origins in the many places that the Faroukis visited in the over 30 years that Said Farouki worked for the United Nations. "We saw the world," says Mrs. Farouki.

Born in Munich, West Germany, and raised in Jerusalem and Baghdad, Farouki's travels have enriched her imagination and expanded her horizon.

Each piece of carving is an original and impossible to copy, since it is hand carved. The scenery she often projects in her carvings originate from scenes in remote villages in countries as diverse as Jordan, Turkey and the Far East. Although Farouki does not produce wood carvings as frequently as she does "Fawziats," they are very much in demand.

"Carving is very taxing on my health," she says. Recently she began diversifying the use of her Fawziat designs. Some designs have been used as table tops while others serve as wall panels and partition panels.

Since her work takes up most of her energy, she is assisted by a small army of live-in helpers who make her "life very pleasant". "They take care of my husband, my mother and myself. They make sure I don't get sick and that I'm comfortable. When I sell a piece of my art, they receive a certain percentage."

Two or three times a year the Faroukis travel abroad to relax and visit their two sons, who live in Cairo and London respectively.

At a time when so many people, young and old are bored sitting in front of their television sets, the whole Farouki household is busy preparing for the next exhibition of Fawziat art in Washington, D.C., this November.

The taming of computers

By Helene Bourdon

NEW YORK — Mark Wilson's surrealistic drawings and his skillful use of computers have won him international acclaim.

Don't expect to find him where the lights are bright and the air polluted by car exhausts; he hides his computers and plotters (sophisticated printers) in a tree-shaded New England village, where he and his wife, a school teacher, are raising three sons.

Wilson started working with computers in 1980, after leaving art school, where he had used canvas and brushes. He was among the first artists to tap the creative potential of computers. Now interest in computer art is a worldwide phenomenon, he says.

It's still an expensive hobby, but compared to what a sculptor pays for his material, or a photographer for his equipment, his total investment of about \$10,000 seems low.

In the ancient barn which is his studio he has three plotters, including one lent to him by IBM, and several desk top computers. As we talked, the IBM plotter linked to a small PC was filling out the reds in a 32-inch by 32-inch abstract drawing, which actually represented one small part of a pattern visible on the screen of the computer.

Starting from basic patterns, "I am constructing things," says Wilson. "I do it piece by piece... I do something, react to it and then do something else... I don't see the whole thing on the screen; I am not completely sure what this drawing will look like. In that

regard I am working in a very conventional way... If I want to put something up in this corner of the paper I have to tell the machine to put it at such and such coordinates — minus 15,500 opposed to 13,500 — sometimes I will give a number and it (plotter) puts something that I had not anticipated; it's one of the things that have fascinated me. It (computer/plotter) does produce unexpected results... Artists are always excited by the possibility of seeing something that they could not see before or that they do not expect to happen."

In 1985 Wilson compiled a book titled "Drawing with Computers" which details ways of writing personalised computer graphics programmes and surveys affordable equipment. "As in photography, it takes a lot of practice," he warns, but "once you get the software to work, and once you get the recipe right, you don't have to pay any attention to the machine."

"The plotter has some intelligence built into it, but the computer does 99 per cent of the work," Wilson explains; besides doing the actual drawing in the requested colours — and thickness of ink — his plotter can rotate images, for example, but Wilson uses mostly his software to rotate, transform and project in three-dimensional space the mathematically constructed images he stores in his computer.

"It's a very simple method, very useful," he says. It allows him to make four or five drawings a week, on average. "Sometimes I get sort of bored with doing the

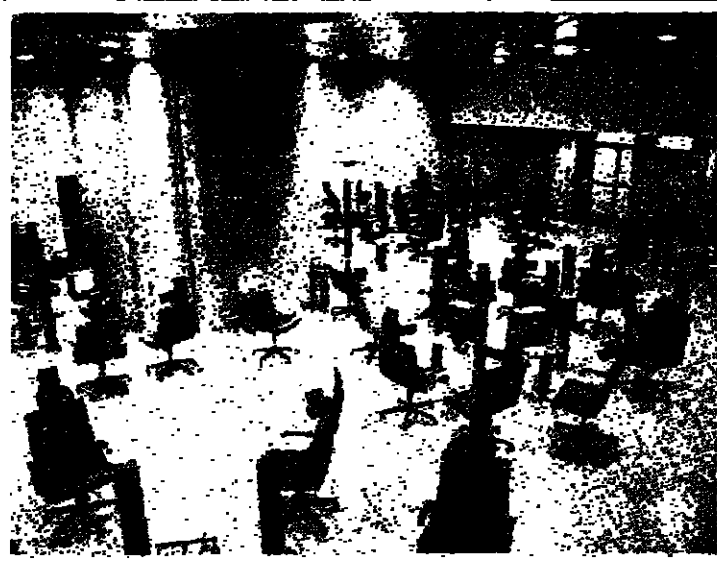
same kind of things, but as the years have gone by, I discovered that you can develop all sort of variations... it (computer system) can be tremendously versatile and powerful in terms of manipulating these visual elements (introduced in the computer)."

"I am not affiliated with any company or university... so I have had to make do with relatively basic equipment... I have always thought that this is one of the great virtues of the stuff, that even using low-cost computers you can do terrific things."

In some ways computer art is completely contrary to what tra-

ditional artists do because they work in a very intuitive way, Wilson admits. 100 years from now some artists will still be using paints and brushes, he adds, "but computers are going to become increasingly important in terms of the way artists use them."

One problem now is that "there is a lot of so-called computer art that is in a sense imitative of other styles, older styles of art making, and it's not really clear what the future will bring," Wilson notes. "It's unclear if there will be an art specifically based on computers." — (World News Link).



FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Bashir Mishri Baraish	Adham	Owner	Salami	56
2- Mohammad A. El Aziz	Mabrouk	Owner	Ahmad	56
3- Mohammad Abdulfan	M. Fouad	Owner	Elsham	56
4- Zed Farad Tamim	Hayran	Owner	R. Amarah	56
5- Mohammad Khalil	Shakhah	Owner		54.5
6- Mshir Farah: Fah	Shahrah	Owner	Ibrahim	54.5
7- Farhan Fah: Oudhi	Nadwah	Owner		54.5
8- Ahmad Salim Khawair	Saad Eied	Owner	Rasheed	53
9- Rabie Adnan A. Hassan	J. Mshakar	Owner	Hary	51.5
10- Yousif I. Hali Maney	D. Khalil	Owner	Yusuf	51.5
11- Mohammad Salim Nabolsy	Sabah	Owner		51.5
12- Saddam El Fakara	A. Saddam	Owner		51.5
13- Asy El Bah-heel	Azzam	Owner		50

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Azmy Amaot	Fahdih	Owner	Saad	54.5
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Fozan	Owner	Abbas	53
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Dahis	Owner	Abbas	53
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Hamdanih	Owner	Ibrahim	48.5
5- Nimir El Hmoud	Binteham	Owner	Ibbal	51.5
6- Nimir El Hmoud	U. Khashmir	Owner	Ibbal	51.5
7- Oudil Allah Hamian	H. Marji	Owner	Yusef	51.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ahmad Oudhi Mjaly	Saly	Owner	Anwar	56
2- Abu 'Abdullah Ashran	M. Aly	Owner	Aly	56
3- Fayad Assal	Dona	Owner	Sulman	54.6
4- Rama Mohammad Marney	W. Hecmi	Owner	Yusef	51.5
5- Salami Mnahy	I. Assal	Owner	Ibrahim	51.5
6- Shihadi Aly Fakara	F. Rady	Owner	Hary	51.5
7- Mohammad Aly Saad	Shimah	Owner		48.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ghalib Haddadin	Waheed	Owner	Mostafa	56
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Mashallah	Owner	Abbas	54.5
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Sid Elkhail	Owner	Abbas	53
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Kareem	Owner	Abbas	53
5- Kamel Wasil Beharat	Mashael	Owner	Khairidin	51.5
6- Najla Wasil Beharat	M. Dina	Owner	Khairidin	51.5
7- Nimir El Hmoud	Berary	Owner	Ibbal	51.5
8- Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Owner	Ibbal	51.5

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR SECOND & THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Aly Fareed El Saad	Sary	Khairidin	Rasheed	60
2- Aly Fareed El Saad	J. El Saad	Khairidin		56
3- Nimir El Hmoud	Talak	Ibbal		60
4- Nimir El Hmoud	Hattab	Ibbal	Hary	60
5- Kamel Wasil Beharat	Elshahy	Khairidin	Mostafa	60
6- Kamel Wasil Beharat	H. Elroman	Khairidin	Ibrahim	56
7- Najla Wasil Beharat	Naamain	Khairidin		53

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WELCOME TO 18



Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJAWH** Tel: 675571

INNER SPACE



Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

LIAR'S MOON

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Foreigners invest \$65 billion in United States during 1988

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign investors spent \$65 billion to acquire or establish U.S. businesses last year, up sharply from the \$40.3 billion spent in 1987, the government reported Tuesday.

The U.S. Commerce Department attributed the 61.3 per cent increase in spending last year over the 1987 level to a surge in large transactions, with the number of investments worth \$1 billion doubling from six to 12 in 1988.

Those 12 investments accounted for 80 per cent of the increase in spending last year. The \$65 billion in outlays included \$60 billion spent to acquire existing U.S. businesses and \$5 billion to establish new operations. Some \$16.4 billion of the money was spent by foreign direct investors, while \$48.6 billion was spent by U.S. affiliates of foreign companies.

The department said several factors have made foreign investment in the United States attractive in recent years, including strong U.S. economic growth which made target companies potentially more profitable, a

large consumer market, political stability and a strong technology. In addition, the wave of corporate restructuring in the United States provided foreigners with investment opportunities and the decline of the dollar against foreign currencies probably led some firms to shift operations to the United States, the department said.

Concern about foreign ownership of U.S. assets in the United States has prompted moves in Congress to require greater disclosure about foreign investors and their purchases.

The Commerce Department said the biggest portion of the outlays by foreign investors last year for acquisitions and new businesses was the \$31.6 billion spent in manufacturing, followed by \$8 billion in retail trade and \$5.8 billion in insurance.

Britain was the biggest spender, at \$21.5 billion after spend-

ing \$15.1 billion in 1987. Japanese investors spent \$14.2 billion, double their 1987 total while Canada spent \$10.4 billion. Canadian investments in 1987 amounted only to \$1.1 billion.

U.S. companies top investors in Japan

By contrast, U.S. companies were the biggest investors in Japan, while the United States was the top destination for Japanese investment overseas last year, finance ministry officials in Japan said Wednesday.

Investment by foreign companies in Japan jumped sharply last year, and foreign investment by Japanese companies also hit a record high, they said.

Despite the high yen, which makes investing in Japan expensive, foreign companies increased their investment in Japan by 46.5 per cent to \$3.24 billion during the fiscal year ended March 31.

U.S. companies accounted for 54.7 per cent of the total, said a report released Wednesday by the Japanese finance ministry.

U.S. investment in Japan jumped 89.1 per cent over the previous year to total \$1.77 bil-

lion, the report said.

During the same period, Japan's direct overseas investment hit a record high for the fifth year in a row, jumping 40.9 per cent in fiscal 1988 over the previous year to \$47.02 billion, a ministry official said, citing a report released Tuesday.

The United States attracted the most direct investment from Japanese companies — \$21.7 billion in fiscal 1988, up 47.6 per cent from the previous year.

A total of \$3.95 billion from Japan went to Britain during the period, up 60 per cent, while Japanese investments in the Netherlands nearly tripled to \$2.39 billion, the report said.

Ministry officials attributed the increase in Japanese direct investment overseas to expansion of overseas production by Japanese manufacturers and of overseas activities by financial and real estate companies.

The report counted as direct overseas investment any investment of more than 10 per cent in a foreign company, investment in overseas branches and expansion of Japanese subsidiaries in foreign countries, the report said.

Jordan receives financial support

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Kuwait, Oman and Iraq have poured millions of dollars into Jordan recently to help the Kingdom cope with an economic difficulty, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Abu Shakour Shaalan, director of the Middle East department of the IMF, told the Saudi Arabian newspaper Asharq Al Awsat that the United States also has promised

to grant Jordan an aid of \$35 to \$40 million.

Shaalan said Kuwait paid Jordan \$40 million and provided it with crude oil worth another \$40 million. Oman and Iraq each paid \$20 million with Iraq promising \$30 million more by the end of the year.

Asked about reports that Jordan had sold a third of its gold reserves, he said: "Selling gold against hard currency

is not harmful, for frozen gold reserves give no interest while hard currencies can give plenty if well exploited."

Shaalan said: "The real essence of the Jordanian economic difficulty was in rising individual and government consumption in excess of national income."

This, he said, represented reduced savings which was a "negative and dangerous" development.

He also referred to the failure of the oil-rich Arab countries to fulfill financial assistance pledges to Jordan made at the Baghdad Arab summit in 1978. Some reduced their contributions and others cancelled them, with only Saudi Arabia fulfilling its commitments, he said.

Jordan was promised an annual aid of \$1.2 billion for a 10-year period, which expired at the end of last year.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan to balance trade with Brazil

AMMAN (R) — Jordan and Brazil are planning a counter-trade deal to reduce Jordan's massive trade gap with the South American giant, a Brazilian embassy source said Wednesday. He said they would soon sign a \$100 million agreement under which Jordanian private-sector imports of iron, timber, paper and food could be bartered for exports by the Jordan Potash Company. The government has a majority stake in the company. Jordanian exports to Brazil last year, mainly potash, were worth \$430,000. They were dwarfed by imports worth \$68 million. But potash exports could now soar because terms under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had been agreed for the protocol with Brazil, the source said. Brazil will accord Jordan most favoured nation status and a five per cent discount on tariffs. Brazil buys 2.3 million tonnes of potash annually while Jordan produces 1.3 million tonnes.

Jordan, Tunisia open economic talks

TUNIS (Petra) — The Jordanian-Tunisian joint chamber of industry and trade committee opened a meeting here Wednesday to discuss ways of promoting economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. The committee is discussing also difficulties that confront trade deals and means of promoting cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries. Hamd Al Haj Hassan from the Ministry of Industry and Trade is heading the Jordanian side to the meeting, which will conclude Thursday. Hassan said that the recommendations and resolutions will be submitted to the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee meeting due to convene Amman in the coming month. The committee was set by the higher committee at a 1985 meeting.

India seeks Iraqi railway contracts

BAGHDAD (AP) — India's minister of railways, Madhav Rao Sindhia, said Wednesday he and an accompanying team of experts have discussed with Iraqi officials cooperation in building new railway networks in Iraq. In an interview with the Associated Press, the Indian official said he discussed with his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammad Hamza, a proposal for building four new railway lines linking Baghdad with the southern city of Basra, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. Experts said the Indian company Rites had offered to build the new 550-kilometre Baghdad-Basra line. Rites had made the initial survey that led in 1971 to the construction of a 900-kilometre railway linking Baghdad with a phosphate mine near the Syrian border. The line has a capacity of transporting 500,000 people and 3.9 million tons of freight a year. Another Indian company Irocon has built two other railway lines linking Baghdad with central and southern towns and cities. The Indian official said his country would use its experience of 146 years in railway construction to help Iraq.

Iranian parliament approves projects

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian parliament has approved an agreement with the Soviet Union to build two dams for generating electricity and irrigating farm land, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's Council of Guardians was expected to give final approval for the plan to build the Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qafesli dams on the Aras river at the border between Iran and the Soviet Union.

S. Korea considers doubling oil stocks

SEOUL (AP) — The government plans to nearly double its emergency oil stockpiles to more than 70 million barrels by the mid-1990s in view of South Korea's growing oil use, officials have said. The officials at the energy and resources ministry said the project, still under study, would require about \$1.5 billion to build storage facilities and buy oil. The project also is intended to guard against price hikes from another international oil supply crunch. South Korea must import all of its oil. It plans to import 260 million barrels of crude oil this year. The officials said the present reserve of 38 million barrels of crude oil was based on the country's 60-day needs at a daily rate of 500,000 barrels, the consumption level in the early 1980s. They said the daily need now stands at 720,000 barrels and is expected to rise to 1.3 million barrels by the mid-1990s as the economy grows. The government plans to finance the project with funds from local refineries.

Bulgaria, Iran sign \$200m deal

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Bulgaria signed a series of economic agreements including a deal worth \$200 million, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. It quoted Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Hristo Hristov as saying the \$200 million deal was between two Iranian and Bulgarian companies but did not elaborate. He added that Bulgaria was ready to help modernise Iran's defence industry.

Irish Futures and Options Exchange opens

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister

Charles Haughey has opened the Irish Futures and Options Exchange (IFOX). Dublin's first new financial exchange in almost 200 years.

Cost-conscious IFOX, whose 24 seats were priced at 60,000 punts (\$90,000) each, decided to reject the colourful "open outcry" systems favoured in London and Chicago and opted instead for automatic trading.

"Our original target was about 500 contracts a day but we would now expect that to double or treble in the first year," chief executive Diarmuid Bradley told Reuters.

"Fifteen hundred contracts a day would give us an underlying value of 100 million punts (\$150 million)," he said.

Trading has begun in three futures contracts — 20-year Irish gilts, an interest rate future based on the three-month Dublin inter bank-rate (DIBOR) and a future on the Irish punt/dollar rate.

Bradley said: "Irish companies have to date had no Irish pound way to hedge their rates before. This is a screen-based system and the players can trade very efficiently and effectively. Its costs are low too."

IFOX, whose members include all Ireland's chief financial players like Allied Irish Banks and the Bank of Ireland, is the country's first new exchange since the Dublin Stock Market was founded in 1799.

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Chaplain: Revd William Taylor, tel: 628543

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 31, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	566.4	572.4	French franc	84.0	84.5
Pound Sterling	889.9	898.8	Japanese yen (for 100)	397.0	401.0
Deutschemark	284.5	287.3	Dutch guilder	232.5	235.0
Swiss franc	327.0	330.3	Swedish crown	84.6	85.4
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.3	39.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	136.0	137.4

DON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollars	1.5732/42	1.2050/50	U.S. dollars
Canadian dollar	1.9855/65	1.9855/65	Canadian dollar
Deutschemarks	2.2385/95	2.2385/95	Deutschemarks
Dutch guilders	1.7130/40	1.7130/40	Dutch guilders
Swiss francs	41.58/61	41.58/61	Swiss francs
Belgian francs	6.7350/400	6.7350/400	Belgian francs
French francs	144.01/41	144.01/41	French francs
Italian lire	142.57/67	142.57/67	Italian lire
Japanese yen	6.6857/925	6.6857/925	Japanese yen
Swedish crowns	7.1700/15	7.1700/15	Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns	7.7325/75	7.7325/75	Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns	364.00/364.50	364.00/364.50	Danish crowns
U.S. dollars			U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries index was 13.3 lower at 1,528.8 after a combination of negative economic indications.

TOKYO — Prices closed up in a late boost of index-linked buying by investment trusts. The Nikkei index closed up 189.86 at 34,266.75 after falling 83.94 points Tuesday.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index ended 61.59 points down at 2,743.87 as uncertainty over political events in China continued.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index edged up 1.07 to 1,279.24 in thin trading.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered to close mixed in thin trading on institutional support, after falling in the last two days. End-of-account considerations and the approach of the monsoon season kept investors on the sidelines. Colgate gained 6.25 rupees to 325 and Associated Cement four to 318.

FRANKFURT — Shares hit new highs for the year for the second day in early trading. Undaunted by a fit of mid-session profit-taking, they closed higher across the board. The DAX index closed up 4.12 at 1,407.29.

ZURICH — Shares closed little changed. Trading slowed down after a firm opening and prices fell slightly amid renewed concern about possible European interest rate rises. The all-share index eased 0.2 to 1,005.3.

PARIS — Shares were of their early lows by midday but trading was thin, with most operators sidelined because of concerns about possible higher interest rates.

LONDON — Prices in late trading languished near the day's lows as sterling's losses against the mark highlighted concerns over the possibility of an imminent further rise in 14 per cent U.K. base rates. At 1515 GMT the FTSE index was down 16.6 at 2,113.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks were mixed in morning trading and moving in a narrow range, with traders awaiting U.S. jobs data due Friday. The Dow was little changed at 2,476.

Australian foreign debt worsens

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia's total foreign debt hit a record 123.60 billion dollars (\$96 billion) Wednesday and Prime Minister Bob Hawke said it would be folly to abandon tight monetary policies.

"It would be short-term economic lunacy, and in political terms, it would also be political lunacy," said Hawke following release of figures for the quarter ended March 31.

The amount, announced by the bureau of statistics, compares to the 121.62 billion dollars (\$91.21 billion at Wednesday's exchange rate) that Australia owed in the previous three months and was worse than expected.

"If we were to loosen policy, then we would unleash upon the Australian economy an infinitely worse and in a sense, an irrecoverable situation," Hawke said.

The prime minister conceded that Australia could not continue

running large current account deficits and accumulating foreign debt, which ranks among the world's highest.

The Australian dollar, the world's 6th most traded currency, remained stable at around 0.75 U.S. cents. The market Tuesday opened weaker because of jitters about the anticipated foreign debt figure and a warning by a U.S. credit rating agency that Australia's international credit rating may be reviewed.

The bureau of statistics also reported Wednesday that the ratio of Australia's net foreign debt at March 31 to gross domestic product for the 12 months ended March 31 rose to 31.7 per cent from 30.4 per cent in December.

Analysts had expected the debt to increase because of the rising strength of the U.S. greenback against the Australian dollar.

Hawke, at a news conference, said that 61.7 per cent of the

country's foreign debt is owed by the private sector and the rest by state governments or statutory authorities.

"The federal government has no net debt," he said.

The economy this week has attracted major headlines following a warning by Moody's Investors Service that it would review Australia's double A-1 credit rating for another possible downgrading.

Federal Treasurer Paul Keating, attending the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) in Paris, attacked Moody's for its statement, saying, "it's either rank incompetence or a tinge of malice."

John Dawkins, who is standing in for Keating, earlier this week appealed for calm. He said demands by the federal opposition that Keating be recalled home amounted to hysteria.



Bob Hawke

On Wednesday, Dawkins admitted the government is concerned about the level of foreign debt but said: "Indeed, the whole stance of policy is directed toward managing the debt, ensuring the debt can be first stabilised and then reduced."

Saudis want to drop OPEC pricing

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said in an apparent policy shift that OPEC should abandon its target oil price of \$18 a barrel and rely on production quotas to maintain the price, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the paper

in Riyadh, Nazer said Saudi Arabia would recommend to a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna Friday that the group formally drop its three-year-old price goal of \$18.

He added that Saudi Arabia would also withdraw a recent proposal for a \$15 minimum price.

The New York Times said such a move might make oil prices more volatile if markets could not look to the Saudis and OPEC for price guidance.

Nazer said that without a fixed price and with group discipline, demand for oil could push the price as high as \$20 a barrel.

Asked what Saudi Arabia would do if other OPEC members continued to exceed production quotas, Nazer said his country would remain committed to production discipline only if the others did the same.

An Iranian newspaper said Tuesday that Saudi Arabia's oil

policies and its political differences with Iran could make next week's OPEC conference a failure.

The English-language daily Tehran Times, which is close to the Iranian foreign ministry, said political tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the Muslim Haj pilgrimage could affect the ministerial meeting.

The strained political relations "can seriously endanger the security and identity of OPEC," the paper said. Its editorial was reported by the official news agency IRNA and received in Cyprus.

The paper said demands by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and possibly the United Arab Emirates for increased quotas and a Saudi proposal for a \$15 per barrel floor price floor instead of a \$18 target price threatened the meeting's success.

The Vienna meeting is to determine a production plan for the group in the second half of 1989. Crude prices have risen about \$5 a barrel since OPEC agreed last November to cut its output ceiling by 20 per cent to 18.5 million barrels per day for the first half of this year.

Iran cooperated with Saudi

Arabia to make that agreement possible.

Iran and Saudi Arabia ended a truce in their bitter war of words two weeks ago after the apparent failure of diplomatic efforts to make the participation of Iranians in the July Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia possible.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in March that Iran, traditionally for higher prices, would like 1989 to be a year of stability in the oil market.

Algeria opposes increasing oil production ceiling

Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena said in an interview published Tuesday that his country will oppose efforts to increase OPEC's production ceiling.

"We are dissatisfied with the present level of oil prices... we still believe that present oil prices do not reflect the real value of this commodity," Boussena said in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan.

Boussena said, "I don't think that the present reference prices of \$18 is sufficiently stable" to support a production increase.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO POLES

The Polish citizens, holders of the Polish passports residents or on temporary stay in Jordan could vote in the elections to the Polish Parliament on June 4th, 1988, at the Polish Embassy, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman, between 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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Hours are: 15:00 p.m. to 16:00 p.m. each day.

Refundable 20% cash deposit required on all bids.

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Mike Schmidt quits

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — In the end, Mike Schmidt footed a lot of bills.

Many said he lacked emotion. But it was emotion that prompted Schmidt to quit professional baseball in tears Monday.

He was embarrassed by his performance in this, his 17th season with the Philadelphia Phillies.

He, more than the fans, couldn't accept as he put it "the deterioration of my skills."

"I looked for signs that would enable me to continue, but they weren't there," he said.

Emotionally, Schmidt couldn't accept less than the skills that have made him an almost-certain first-ballot selection to baseball's Hall of Fame.

It's true, he rarely tossed a bat or a helmet in anger. He never showed up an umpire. He seemed to accept victory and defeat with equal grace. It made fans angry. They felt he didn't care.

Maybe it's corny, but Schmidt felt that all he owed was performance. He hated the word "leadership."

He cringed when Phillies president Bill Giles once described him as moody and lacking the leadership Giles felt Schmidt owed the club.

"A .293 average, 35 home runs and 113 RBIs is all I owe this club," he snapped after Giles' outburst in 1987.

If the players in this clubhouse would watch how I start preparing for a (night) game, follow me around from 2 p.m. until game time, they'd see leadership," Schmidt said.

About some things, Schmidt surprised everyone.

There was the year he criticized the way manager Paul Owens ran the club. He not only complained, but suggested the way the ship should be run.

Then, there was the time he told a Montreal writer that Philadelphia fans were the worst in baseball.

He realized that he stuck his foot in his mouth. When the club

came home, Schmidt appeared for infield practice wearing a wig. The fans laughed. He laughed and waved to them. The incident was forgotten.

This spring in Florida, he told a Tampa writer that Philadelphia baseball writers hoped he would fail in his comeback from major shoulder surgery.

He said the writers are too many hoagies and acted like the cynical late W.C. Fields. The next day he apologized.

Oh yes, he once suggested that the Phillies clean up the tunnel leading to the dugout and the dugout. He said it smelled like cat waste.

Schmidt cared about a lot of things. He sometimes said it the wrong way.

Schmidt, who turns 40 in September, insisted he quit because he no longer can get the job done. The feeling persists that his problem was more physical than mental.

Since the shoulder injury that disabled him Aug. 12, 1988, and prompted arthroscopic surgery in September, he appeared to loose power at bat and his swing appeared slower.

In the field, he missed balls he once could handle with ease. He led the team in errors with eight before Monday night's game at San Diego.

He certainly no longer had the powerful arm in throwing the ball from third base.

Schmidt had just two hits in his last 41 at-bats. He was hitting .203 with six home runs and 28 RBIs. He made costly errors in the club's last two games at San Francisco.

He knew when to throw in the towel.

Schmidt could be described as a complex person, but there was nothing complex about his performance on a baseball field.

He should be remembered as — the third baseman who joined Stan Musial and Roy Campanella as the only players ever to win three MVP awards.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

European sports ministers meet

REYKJAVIK (AP) — Sports ministers from throughout Western Europe met Wednesday to discuss how to combat apartheid, hooliganism and drugs, with Britain leading the battle on the drugs issue and facing sharp attacks on the other two. The two-day session will seek to coordinate action on those three issues among the 23 nations in the Council of Europe and to produce agreements that can be used as international models. The most hotly contested issue at the conference in the Icelandic capital is expected to be apartheid, with the Scandinavian nations arguing Britain, France, West Germany and other nations are re-establishing sporting links with South Africa. The Scandinavians are seeking approval of a text expressing concern "that many national and international sports bodies have continued sports contacts with countries practicing apartheid and other discriminatory practices."

Auriol hits rock, Biasion takes lead

KAMENIA VOURLA, Greece (R) — Italian world champion Massimo Biasion took the lead in the Acropolis rally Tuesday after his team-mate Didier Auriol of France hit a rock and damaged a rear wheel of his Lancia. Until the mishap, Auriol, leader after Monday's second leg, had a one minute 44 seconds advantage. But on the 23rd special stage, above the village of Zaltsa, Auriol pushed too hard, sliding sideways into the rock and damaging his right rear wheel. He managed to finish the stage, but lost almost two minutes and his lead. With Wednesday's final leg over 13 special stages remaining, Biasion leads the Frenchman.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is a great day to reorganize and set matters out. Feelings are on the surface, and this prompts "out of the ordinary" moods. Romantic connections focus on the unusual and sensational.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Do something "together" with a special friend. The economic picture brightens. If you receive a confusing message, don't reply.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) The Moon in your sign accents a steadfast personality, personal popularity and romance. Intuition is heightened.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Accepting a social invitation is uplifting. Focus on "expanding your horizons and camaraderie. Nighttime dreams carry a message."

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Economic picture appears brighter. It is advantageous to continue to clamp down on expenses. Extend congratulations to a pal.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) It is a good time to address issues. How can you improve life? What are your career objectives? What is needed to go forward?

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are slow to gather your forces and

approach a prospective mate. Plan a rendezvous surrounding a common interest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An attitude adjustment may be needed if you are seeking to get ideas across to siblings. Talking on their level will do wonders.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You seek more independence and private time. Listen to your daydreams, as they are part of your intuition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your memory may not be cooperative today. Mental rest and relaxation are recommended. You can find a good buy on hard goods.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Furthering a relationship may require a stronger commitment. Boring routines can be changed by diversification and remodeling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may adjust to change more easily as your recent stubborn streak changes. Now, live it up a little, relax and avoid drudgery.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Do one thing at a time. Tie up loose ends. Connect with elements of pleasure. Be confident of your ability to perform difficult tasks.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Partygoers will be out in force tonight! Get an early start if you want to beat the crowds. The evening should be cheerful, entertaining and diversified. Buckle up the seat belt!

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Return a kindness. Use common sense to cut down on waste. Laughter freshens up the day. Arrange for pleasant entertainment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Possession of talent qualifies you to get the job done. Promote a better work atmosphere by cheering others along.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Knowledge without common sense turns to useless folly. Look for extra sources of income that will improve your lifestyle.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) The focus is on feelings. If unattached, you may find yourself in a romantic situation that is getting off to a rocky start.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Personal energy is high. You daydream about someone you admire. Intuitive ideas will work well when applied to career objectives.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get ready for action. Get on the good

health track. Do what you enjoy doing. Your goals have your enthusiasm. Get on with the results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take care of necessities, and then hit the road for some fun. There is a change of pace in how you relate to a romantic partner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Social interests gain momentum. Turning on the charm will get results. A partner seems difficult. Use wisdom as a guiding force.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A new approach to a relationship can help smooth out the bumps. Strike a happy note where home is concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You find the good in an associate who has a questionable past. Keep hands off of a clandestine relationship. Your sensual level is high.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Check boredom with entertainment that is different. Look beyond appearances when seeking romantic friendships.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Sometimes you give up too soon. Self-imposed limitations can channel your energy down a steady path. Stick to one plan for results.

French Open Second Round

Sabatini moves into 3rd round

PARIS (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini, edging closer to a confrontation with defending champion Steffi Graf, became the first player to reach the third round of the French Open Wednesday, sweeping past Alexia Dechaume of France 6-3, 6-1.

The second-seeded Argentine was not at her peak on the centre court at Roland Garros but was still too strong for an opponent equipped with dangerous groundstrokes but lacking mobility and experience.

As Sabatini came off court after her one-hour, 12-minute victory, her half of the draw suddenly opened up as the player due to meet her in the last eight, Helena Sukova, was upset in straight sets on a side court.

The fifth-seeded Czechoslovakian, who reached the final of the Australian Open in January, lost 6-1, 7-5 to Japan's Akiko Kijimuta, ranked 91st in the world.

Sukova, who prefers harder surfaces than the clay of Paris, was the fourth of the 16 women's seeds to go out of the competition.

Kijimuta had lost in the first round at all three previous appearances in Paris.

Sabatini moved up 5-2 and double-match point in the first set of her match against Dechaume but then got hit by four straight winners and lost the eighth game.

She clinched the set in the next game on a forehand topspin lob and forced Dechaume into errors in the second stanza to take a 5-0 lead.

Serving to save the match, Dechaume staved off a match point and a 6-0 whitewash but capitulated in the next game when Sabatini converted the second of

two more match points with an ace down the middle.

Meanwhile Andre Agassi is trying not to think about becoming a hero by achieving what three generations of American players before him have failed to achieve — winning the men's title here.

"I would be lying if I said I didn't feel it," Agassi, the no. 5 seed, said when asked about the expectations of him becoming the first American man since Tony

Trabert 34 years ago to win the title at Roland Garros.

The 19-year-old American, with trademark shoulder-length hair, denim shorts and multi-coloured tennis shoes, looked anything but a loser in his first-round match Tuesday, drawing legions of fans to see him outwit Johan Carlsson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

Graf's opposite number for the men's title, Ivan Lendl, began his quest for a fourth French crown by defeating Patrick Kuhn of West Germany 7-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Former champion Hana Mandlikova, the 14th seed, joined Zvereva on the casualty list when she was beaten 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 6-4 by a Brazilian teenager she had

never heard of, Andrea Vieira from San Paulo.

Mandlikova, Czechoslovak-born but now an Australian citizen, was full of praise for her unheralded opponent.

"She is a very good player," said Mandlikova, who won the French title in 1981. "She has a good career ahead of her."

Mandlikova, who spent six months out of action last year because of a persistent hamstring injury, said a back problem which forced her to retire in the third round of the Italian Open had cleared up.

"I am looking forward to playing on grass at Wimbledon because I prefer a faster surface," she added.

Graf's boyfriend on women's tennis

PARIS (AP) — Steffi Graf may be rich and famous. But her tennis-playing boyfriend is broke and unknown and his relationship with the world's no. 1 woman player isn't helping his own career.

"I have to admit that my bank account is in the red because I haven't been winning much lately," said Alexander Mronz. "All the fuss over our relationship has been affecting me a little, particularly in Hamburg earlier this month."

There, Mronz, a West German ranked 165th in the world, lost in the first round after holding a match point.

The same happened to him in the opening round of the French Open Monday when he lost in five sets to Omar Cam-

porese of Italy after holding match-point.

Last year Mronz earned only \$29,687 compared to Graf's \$1,378,128.

But the 24-year-old from Cologne is refusing to take any charity from the Grand Slam champions.

"I don't want Steffi's money. I make my own money — that is my job," Mronz said. "What I need is a coach but I can't afford one. I have no intention of taking advantage of the Graf system in that way either."

"I wouldn't want to take her coach away because then if she lost one match I would feel very bad."

Mronz said he has turned down a host of late entries to

tournaments so as not to be seen to be taking advantage of his relationship with Graf.

"I like her very much and wouldn't want to do anything to endanger our relationship," he said. "I have been offered wild card entries into tournaments but I have refused them because I want to be my own man."

Although Mronz is clearly proud of his partner's achievements, he doesn't have much time for women's tennis.

"It is not tennis, it is ping pong," he said. "With the exception of a few, the big money women make is a scandal. Every man has to fight 100 per cent in the first round and some of the girls don't even sweat and they make millions."

Astaphan under fire from Johnson's lawyer

TORONTO (AP) — After detailing nearly eight years of steroid use by Ben Johnson, his personal physician Wednesday was expected to conclude his testimony at a Canadian inquiry into drugs and athletics.

On Tuesday, Dr. Jamie Astaphan's fifth day at the hearings, he listened as the sprinter's lawyer suggested the positive steroid test at the Olympics that cost Johnson the 100-metre gold medal may have had a good effect if it exposed Astaphan.

"Doctor, I suggest to you that you were not looking after the health of your athletes, specifically Ben Johnson," lawyer Ed Futerman said at the conclusion of increasingly harsh cross-examination that included a reference to Astaphan as a "steroid maestro."

"You were playing Russian Roulette with Ben's liver, with his Achilles tendon. And perhaps he indeed is very fortunate that he tested positive in Seoul to assure that at least people like you would be exposed for what you stand for," the lawyer said.

Ontario associate justice Charles Dubin, who is leading the inquiry formed after the Olympic scandal last September, interjected: "I think I said at the beginning of this inquiry that every witness was to be treated with dignity and respect. I don't want to see that breached again."

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AMMAN, JORDAN

Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1989

AGE RANGE: Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 13 years. A new Kindergarten Class for 3 year olds will open this term with reduced school fees. There are still some places available.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION: English

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED: None

OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED: Arabic and French

NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED: All

TEACHING STAFF: 90% British and all qualified and experienced within their specialty

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS: Science; Maths; English; Physical Education; Music; Drama etc

The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community

SPORTS: Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc

TRANSPORT: Buses are available to cover principal residential areas

ENQUIRIES: The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The School will also be open for registration every Monday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

The new term begins on Sunday 10th September.

P.O. Box 2002

Tel: 841070

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you bid:
♠AKJ1098 ♠13 ♠876 ♠62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1-♠ Pass 1-♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you bid:
♠94 ♠AJ7 ♠64 ♠AQ98
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1-♠ 1-♠ Pass 3-♠
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you bid:
♠7 ♠AQ5 ♠KQJ102 ♠873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1-♠ 2-♠ 2-♠ 3-♠
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you bid:
♠K1095 ♠Q13 ♠K7 ♠K62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1-♠ 1-♠ Pass 1-♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you bid:
♠K10 ♠83 ♠K185 ♠AQ82
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1-♠ Pass 1-♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2-♠ Pass
3-♠ Pass 4-♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Look for answers on Monday. For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"It's 2:00 AM — get up! If we want to find a parking space at the mall we've got to leave early!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUKKS

DRUIL

RYLAIF

GREDED



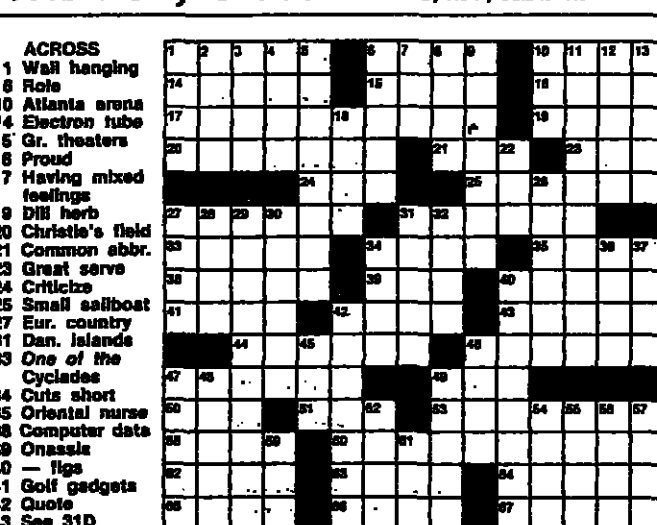
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: (NEPT GUILT PRATE FORBID)
Answer: What people sometimes were during the Stone Age — "PETRIFIED"

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Salzlander



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Wall hanging
8 Role
10 Atlanta arena
14 Electro tube
15 Gr. theaters
16 Proud
17 Having mixed feelings
19 Dill herb
20 Christie's field
21 Common abbr.
22 Great serve
24 Critique
25 Small sailboat
27 Eur. country
29 Dan. islands
30 One of the Cyclades
34 Cuts short
35 Oriental nurse
36 Computer data
38 Onassis
40 Gigs
41 Golf gadgets
42 Quote
43 See 31D
44 Land
46 Green.
47 Grain beard
48 Chin. ideal
50 Total
51 Dr. org.
53 Charms
54 Arrow poison
55 Rocket fuel
56 Force
58 Raison d'
64 Legate
65 Outside pret.
66 Fabric worker
67 Poker play
10 Eggs
11 Business
12 Family
13 Between: prof.
18 Island off Galway
19 Between: prof.
20 Mongrel dog
26 Hockey player
27 State of agitation
28 Ebb
29 Lab test
30 Puts out
31 Prospector of old (with 43A)
32 Rose's mao.
34 Filing need
45 One — time
46 Strong wind
47 Stage whisper
48 Of mystic
56 Seth's son
57 Gyle
58 disorder
59 He's
60 command
61 Native metal

Peanuts

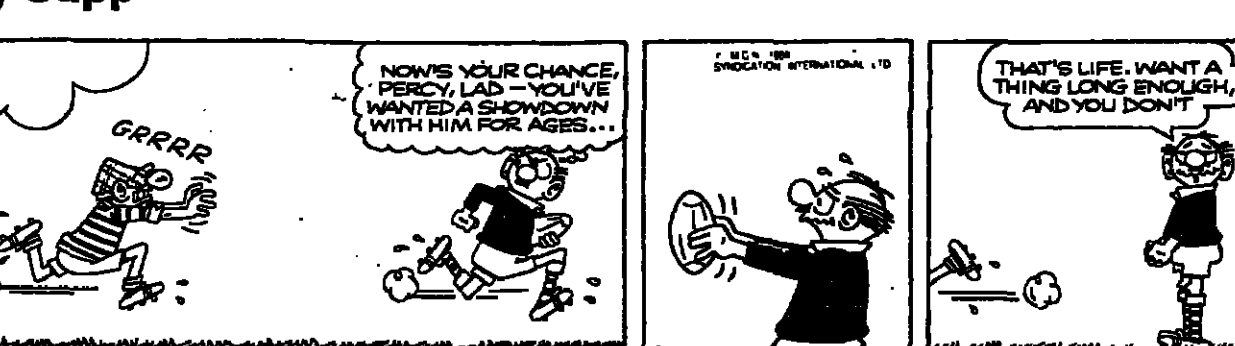


B.C.

PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT



Andy Capp



Yeltsin fires broadside at Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have failed to improve Soviets' lives, and the president has accumulated so much power there is danger of a "new dictatorship," outspoken communist reformer Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday.

Yeltsin, in his first nationally televised address as a member of the new competitively elected Congress, said the 2,250-member body should wrest power from the 20-million-member Communist Party that has ruled the Soviet Union since 1917.

His proposals to radically alter the Soviet power structure, making the party subservient to the Congress of People's Deputies, would require the president to submit to an annual, nationwide referendum on his performance.

Yeltsin, who became a hero to many Soviets by demanding an end to official privilege and a better life for the common people, said the president's campaign to revitalize Soviet society and the economy had not delivered. "The promised programme and the promises of the past four years have not been fulfilled."

Yeltsin told the Congress. "People have begun to live worse." He said he held Gorbachev, who became Kremlin chief in 1985, responsible "for all of that."

Yeltsin called on the congress to decide at least one concrete social issue before adjourning and suggested it abolish all "unlawful privileges for the nomenklatura, yes, and in general strike this word from our lexicon." Nomenklatura is a Russian word for the party and government elite who receive special privileges as a result of their or their families' positions.

He also proposed that the Congress consider making medicine and mass transit free for invalids and tens of millions of Soviets who he said were "living below the poverty line."

"Otherwise, people will not understand us," he said.

The one-time Gorbachev protégé who was fired from his powerful party posts said the president, who is also Communist Party general secretary, had been given "extraordinary powers" in the political overhaul that created the Congress. He suggested Gorbachev might be tempted, like past Kremlin chiefs, to abuse power.

Gorbachev, obviously sensitive to such charges, promised the assembly when he stood unopposed for election last week that he would never take advantage of the increased powers of the presidency.

But Yeltsin said putting so much power in the hands of one man "could lead to the temptation to resolve our complex problems by means of force."

In the 17-minute address interrupted by sporadic but not particularly enthusiastic applause, Yeltsin warned: "We can again be... under a new totalitarian regime, under a new dictatorship."

Members of the party's ruling Politburo who attended the ses-

sion and sat in a special section of the hall did not clap.

Gorbachev was elected to a five-year term as Soviet president by the Congress Thursday. Yeltsin proposed that he submit to a nationwide vote of confidence each year to test popular support for his conduct in office.

The silver-haired Yeltsin, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, also called for revamping the membership of the party's policy-making body, claiming many on the committee have failed to fulfill their tasks.

He proposed drafting a law to regulate the functions of the ruling party, which has held a legal monopoly on power for more than 70 years, and to define how the lines of official Soviet policy are drawn.

Power "by right should belong to the people, in the form of the organ it elects, that is, the Congress," the 58-year-old Siberian declared.

Legal limits on the party's prerogatives would be a revolutionary development in Soviet poli-

tics, where for decades party officials have dominated the apparatus of government and turned legislative organs at all levels into docile rubber-stamp bodies.

Gorbachev has said his reforms were designed to separate the government and party bureaucracies, get the party out of day-to-day public affairs and let the popularly elected Congress and its standing legislature set policy and law. But Yeltsin's proposal would go considerably further by giving popularly elected lawmakers the power to limit the party's role.

Yeltsin won more votes than any other deputy elected to the Congress. Almost 90 per cent of Moscow voters cast ballots for him in March. He was ousted as party boss of the Soviet capital in November 1987 after criticising the slow pace of Gorbachev's programmes.

Denied a seat by fellow deputies in voting by the Congress for the nation's full-time legislature, the Supreme Soviet, Yeltsin pulled off a deft parliamentary



Yeltsin meets with reporters on the eve of his election to the Supreme Soviet

manoeuvre, with Gorbachev's backing, Monday to gain one. Yeltsin won a place in the Supreme Soviet after another deputy sacrificed his seat on condition Yeltsin would fill it. Only a

few deputies voted against the transfer. The Congress was asked Wednesday to ratify the new lineup, and 17 deputies voted against seating Yeltsin in the bicameral Supreme Soviet.

COLUMN

'Indiana Jones' film strikes gold

LOS ANGELES (R) — The film "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" demolished a host of box-office records in its first week in North American theatres, grossing almost \$47 million. Paramount Pictures said Tuesday the film, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery, raked in \$46,931,722 in the six days between its opening last Wednesday and Monday's Memorial Day holiday. That broke the seven-day record set by "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," the previous instalment in the adventures of a daredevil archaeologist that began with "Raiders of the Lost Ark." "Last Crusade" also became the first film to gross over \$10 million in a single day, taking in \$11.8 million Saturday and another 10.1 million Sunday. The film, directed by Steven Spielberg and produced by George Lucas, accounted for more than half of total North American box-office receipts Friday through Monday, Paramount said.

Student buys friends

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — A 10-year-old student, apparently feeling he needed more friends, decided to buy them with thousands of dollars of his father's money. No one is exactly sure how much money the youngster spread around the school in his pursuit of friendship, although officials have recovered \$3,000 from classmates and their parents. "He was handing out \$5 \$10, \$20 and \$100 bills," said Richard Scruggs, the school system's security officer. "The boy apparently got into his father's stash." The money-for-friendship enterprise was uncovered by Rita school principal J.W. Jones last week when a student asked him to break a \$10 bill. Jones asked where the student had gotten the money, and was told the student was giving it away. Jones said no disciplinary action was taken against the spendthrift youngster. Officials checked to make sure no coercion was involved in the payments, but the gifts apparently were made freely, Scruggs said. And with some success: the boy "was making friends real well," said Tom Shumppert, assistant superintendent of the Knox County School System.

Inn lets you take it home for a price

MIDDLETOWN, Virginia (AP) — Guests at the Wayside Inn can walk away with a lot more than ashtrays and towels — for a price. The rooms in Wayside of Virginia's six hotels have been decorated with antique furniture and art objects, about 90 per cent of which are for sale. "We've sold beds," said Judy Brown, historical curator of Wayside Properties. "Beds are the big thing people want to take with them." Prices of the antiques vary. A small print case about \$50, a full-size walnut bed is priced at about \$2,000, and a painting of George Washington sells for \$45,000. Rooms in the Wayside Inn in Middletown, which has been in use continuously as an inn since 1797, are decorated mostly in 18th century American style. But the Lincoln room has a portrait of President Abraham Lincoln and an 1800s Lincoln rocker, so-called because Lincoln had one like it in the White House. The wallpaper pattern in the Lincoln room matches one used at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home near Charlottesville. "People are having a lot of fun with this," Brown said. "My idea was to do something so out of the ordinary you wouldn't have anything like it at home."

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	14	Cloudy
ATHENS	14	20	Clear
BAHRAIN	27	31	Clear
BANGKOK	24	33	Cloudy
BEIJING	13	25	Clear
BOMBAY	24	33	Clear
BRAZILIA	17	23	Clear
CAIRO	18	32	Clear
CHICAGO	17	23	Clear
COPENHAGEN	08	15	Cloudy
DUBLIN	08	15	Cloudy
GENEVA	11	22	Cloudy
HONG KONG	22	27	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	14	24	Clear
LONDON	07	16	Clear
LOS ANGELES	15	21	Clear
MADRID	12	24	Cloudy
MECCA	28	46	Clear
MONTREAL	14	16	Clear
MOSCOW	10	24	Clear
NEW DELHI	32	40	Clear
NEW YORK	15	24	Clear
PARIS	07	23	Clear
ROME	11	28	Clear
TOKYO	15	22	Clear
VIENNA	14	23	Clear



Tiananmen siege... a student leans on her companion's shoulder after weeping at his condition

Funds plenty for China democracy revolt

PEKING (R) — Money is pouring in for pro-democracy Chinese students, but the protesters face problems in converting foreign currency offered by overseas supporters.

Chinese citizens, whose monthly income averages 200 yuan (\$54) in cities, have contributed over a million yuan (\$270,000) to students camped out at Tiananmen Square since May 13, student leader Feng Congde said Wednesday.

Another 26 million Hong Kong dollars (\$3.3 million) is sitting in the British colony as supporters there try to figure a way to hand over the money without incurring the wrath of Chinese authorities.

The Chinese government has accused the students of being

"counter-revolutionary" and Hong Kong supporters say they could be accused of aiding and abetting their movement.

Many overseas Chinese students have written to ask for a bank account number to transfer money to, student leaders said.

"We can't open a bank account because we fear the money would be confiscated and some of us may be arrested," said Feng, a member of the main student "standing committee" on the square who oversees finance and supplies.

Students in the square are holding the equivalent of at least \$20,000 in foreign currency, mostly Hong Kong dollars, and are afraid to convert it to local

currency, he said.

Feng said students were still trying to sort out the accounts, which changed hands May 25 when a different group of students took over the bookkeeping.

Students had received 983,000 yuan (\$265,700) until that day, Feng said. Since then they have received 151,000 yuan (\$40,800), plus 152,070 Hong Kong dollars (\$19,500) and smaller amounts in other currencies.

Much of the cash has been spent so far on food and supplies, but students have saved money because of contributions of food and clothing from Peking residents.

Hong Kong supporters, unsure whom to hand money to, have

bought dozens of red and blue camping tents which now dot the 40-hectare square.

"We want to avoid fraud and mismanagement which will badly affect our movement. It is a big responsibility to receive so much money," he said. "We hope our supporters in Hong Kong first study how we can spend this money before sending it to us."

Yao Xiaoyan, the main accountant, said students still had about 90,800 yuan (\$24,540) left over at Tuesday midnight, which could tide them over until June 20 at the current rate of expenditure and contributions.

"We try to spend as little as possible," she said. "The money has to go a long way for democracy."

Argentina sends more troops to riot-hit areas

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine authorities ordered more paramilitary security troops to riot-hit areas late Tuesday to quell a week-long wave of looting that has left at least 12 people dead, dozens injured and hundreds detained.

"It's no longer a question of supermarket looting, there have also been very serious attacks on private homes. There are firearms and there are snipers," Interior Secretary Ricardo Gil Lavedra told reporters at the government house.

Widespread looting and riots continued in Argentine cities despite a 30-day state of siege declared by President Raul Alfonsín late Monday.

The government sent 1,000 more paramilitary security troops to Rosario, Argentina's second largest city, where seven people have died and over 1,000 have been detained since the weekend.

Over 1,000 policemen patrolled General Sarmiento, a northern suburb of Buenos Aires where five people died in food riots, local news agencies said.

In a televised speech Interior Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese said the situation in Rosario and northern Buenos Aires was calming down as night fell.

"At this point it is not being thought and it is not necessary for



Raul Alfonsín

the armed forces to take part (in quashing the riots) because the (paramilitary) security forces are capable of solving the problem in their hands," Pugliese said.

Labour unions and business associations urged political parties late Tuesday to consider accelerating the transfer of power from President Raul Alfonsín to President-elect Carlos Menem, leader of the Peronist Movement, who is scheduled to take office Dec. 10.

"It's important that the transition be shortened and that a

definition be achieved for power to emerge from a political agreement," Gilberto Montagna, head of the Argentine Industrial Union, told reporters.

"We are facing a social explosion... unfortunately this government has lost the credibility it once had and we think a hand-over of power could lend a different consensus to any steps that may be taken," Saul Ubaldini, head of the Peronist-led General Confederation of Labour, told reporters.

Government, business and trade union representatives agreed late Tuesday to raise the minimum monthly wage to 8,700 australs (about \$50) from 4,000 australs (about \$23). Workers' salaries have lost nearly two-thirds of their purchasing power since Alfonsín took power in December 1983.

Menem, who is due to meet Alfonsín Wednesday, has said he is willing to assume the presidency if necessary. Peronism trounced the ruling radical party in general elections May 14.

Rioters fired on security forces and set up barricades in working-class sectors of Rosario, where radio reported a shop owner shot two looters dead. The city is suffering a shortage of basic foodstuffs as commerce has been virtually crippled.

SWAPO urges Pretoria to amend Namibia election law

LUSAKA (R) — The Namibian nationalist group SWAPO Wednesday said draft laws for pre-independence elections would not guarantee free and fair voting and urged South Africa to amend them.

The draft proposed by South Africa's Administrator-General for Namibia Louis Pienaar covers procedures for registration of voters and polling in the elections, scheduled for Nov. 1 under a United Nations independence plan.

SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) Secretary for Foreign Relations Theo-Ben Gurirab said SWAPO accepted much of the draft but was unhappy with parts of it and had asked for amendments. SWAPO was awaiting a reply.

"We cannot accept it in its present form... as it stands it would go against the principle of free and fair elections," he told

Reuters in Lusaka during a SWAPO seminar on elections.

In a document listing its objections, SWAPO said the draft left the way open for South Africa to rig the elections.

SWAPO, which fought a 23-year guerrilla war against South African rule in Namibia, is widely expected to win most of the votes.

Voter registration is due to begin July 1 but the differences heralded possible further delays to the independence process which was disrupted in April by fierce fighting between South African-led security forces and SWAPO guerrillas.

Gurirab urged South Africa to give a greater election role to U.N. special representative for Namibia, Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari, who is overseeing the independence plan.

"At present, there is no role whatsoever envisaged in the law

for the special representative," Gurirab added.

The SWAPO official said Pienaar should be obliged to consult Ahtisaari on all steps of the electoral process, for example the appointment of a chief registration officer.

SWAPO also wanted the law to tighten control of registration of voters to prevent non-Namibians being allowed to vote.

He said it should bar from voting South Africans serving in the armed forces or public administration in Namibia, as well as foreigners such as members of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the rebel group fighting Angola's left-wing government.

He also asked for it to allow representatives of political parties to be present during polling and vote counting, more security at polling centres and protection for ballot boxes.

Yugoslav police, Albanians clash in Kosov province

BELGRADE (R) — Fugitive ethnic Albanian nationalists opened fire on police in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo and escaped into woodland after a protester was killed in a gun battle, Belgrade Radio said Wednesday.

It said about 12 Albanians fled to the village of Mirojevo and barricaded themselves in a house Tuesday after clashes in the nearby town of Podujevo in which police shot dead a 28-year-old Albanian demonstrator.

The fugitives ignored local officials who tried to talk with them, fired shots at police besieging the house, and escaped in the night into surrounding woodland, the radio said.

In the Kosovo capital of Pristina, 30 kilometres south of Podujevo, about 500 students who occupied the city's university campus Tuesday dispersed soon after midnight without police intervention, local sources said.

The violence was the first se-

rious unrest in Kosovo since 22 ethnic Albanians and two policemen were killed in March in riots sparked by the successful campaign of Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics, to reduce Kosovo's autonomy.

Yugoslav Radio Iktosovo was quiet Wednesday. But in Croatia, the second largest republic, Zagreb Radio said: "There is evidence of anxiety among the population (in Kosovo). Security forces have been strengthened in Pristina's centre."

The unrest resurfaced at a sensitive time for Yugoslavia's communist authorities. A delegation of the European Parliament, the directly elected legislature of the European Community (EC) was visiting Kosovo Tuesday to assess the human rights scene.

Belgrade Radio suggested a hard core of ethnic Albanian nationalists had deliberately drawn police gunfire in an effort to win the sympathy of the parliamentarians.

A police statement said de-

monstrators exchanged gunfire with policemen in Podujevo after scores of teenagers, some masked in headscarves to avoid detection, marched through the town waving banners and chanting nationalist slogans.

Belgrade newspapers said the protesters had shouted "We want equality" and Kosovo is ours and we won't give it up." They also proclaimed they had taken a blood oath to defend Kosovo at the risk of their lives.

Yugoslav authorities allege that nationalists among Kosovo's 1.7 million ethnic Albanian community were planning an armed revolt this year with the aim of turning the province into a full-scale republic and ultimately seceding to Albania.

The 200,000 Serbs and other Slavs in Kosovo have long complained of ethnic Albanian persecution and expressed fears that the local Albanian birthrate — the highest in Europe at 34 per thousand — will jeopardise their culture.

Lagos bans political activity in Bendel

LAGOS (R) — Political activity has been banned in Nigeria's eastern Bendel state after rioting last week. National Radio reported Tuesday.

Police and troops shot dead three youths in the Bendel state capital Benin city last Friday, on the third day of student-led demonstrations against the government's economic policies.

The radio said Benin city was now calm and the authorities had shortened by two hours a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed last Thursday.

But Bendel state police commissioner Lawrence Cheneba announced a two-week ban on political activity because of "the present mood in the state," the radio reported.

Party politics only became legal in Nigeria after a five-year ban was lifted in May as part of military President Ibrahim

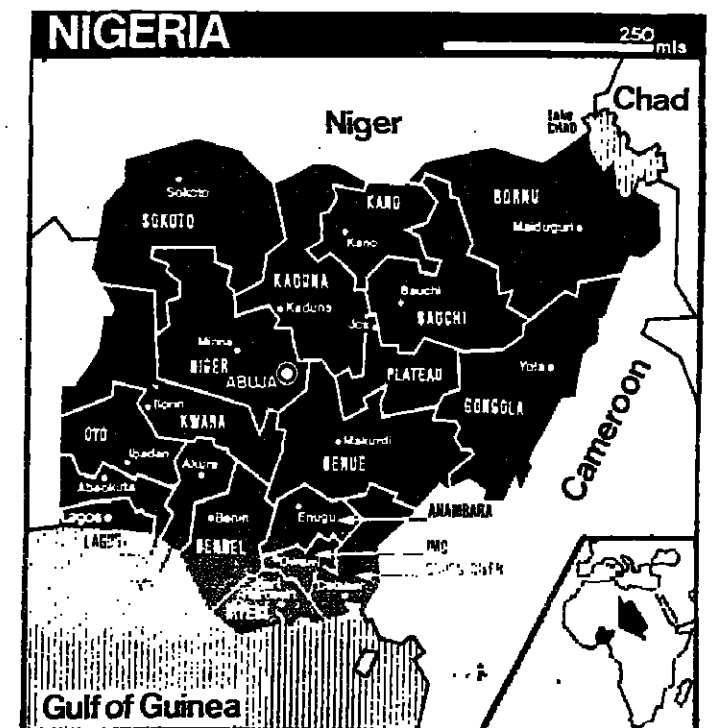
Babangida's plan for a return to civilian rule by 1992.

The government has warned repeatedly against any disruption of the process and newspapers Tuesday reported a clampdown in several states as unrest appeared to be spreading.

Security has been tightened around campuses as far apart as Lagos State University in the south and Jos 800 kilometres to the north.

In Oyo state north of Lagos, schools, colleges and Nigeria's oldest university were closed after students in Ibadan, the state capital, took to the streets Monday.

The Guardian newspaper reported the Ibadan-based secretariat of the banned National Association of Nigerian Students had issued an ultimatum demanding the government scrap its econo-



mic programme.

The International Monetary Fund-backed reforms are blamed by many for skyrocketing food prices, chronic unemployment and other hardships.

مكتبة ابن خلدون